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Legion

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June 2017 • Vol. 182, No. 6



The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.2 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 14,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

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Andrew Steinberg of Newton, Mass., delivers his winning speech on the U.S. Constitution during The American Legion's 80th annual National Oratorical Contest on April 23 in Indianapolis. Sponsored by Nonantum Post 440, Steinberg, 17, received an \$18,000 scholarship. Watch the three finalists' orations online at www.legion.org/oratorical. Photo by Clay Lonneth

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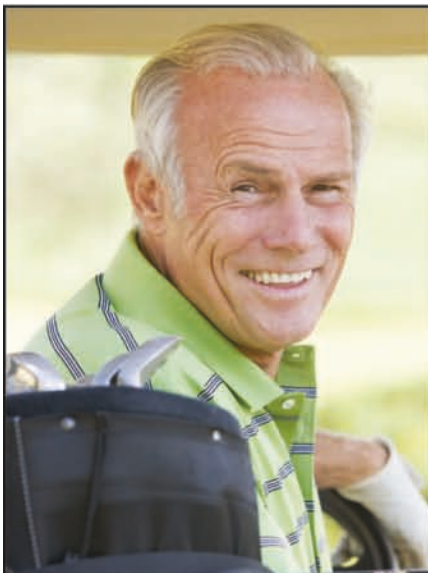
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Photo courtesy Col. Robert R. McCormick Research Center

'First Over There'

The article by Matthew J. Davenport (April) prompted this memory. My father, Gerald M. Gilligan, was called to active duty from the ROTC shortly after the United States entered World War I. He was among the early troops sent to France. Upon their arrival, it was discovered that his unit's records were missing. Therefore, they had no means for mess or pay, and had to bum meals by joining the end of established units' chow lines.

It was discovered that my father was fluent in French, German and Polish. The result was a posting to Pershing's headquarters. He stayed after the war's end to dispose of materials not returning with the troops. Upon his return to the United States, he completed his bachelor's and master's degrees. He was an early member of the Legion and very active in his local post. I recall marching with him at a national convention in New York City around 80 years ago.

— Stephen V. Gilligan, Syracuse, N.Y.

My father, Shady Tackett, fought in the Battle of Saint-Mihiel. Not that he ever talked about it. I found out because it was on his discharge papers, which my mother preserved. Although disabled, he worked on the Norfolk & Western Railway as an engineer, driving the huge coal locomotives.

— Don Tackett, Audubon, Pa.

The excellent issue on World War I brought back many memories of my grandfather, Capt. Herman H. Weimer, who fought at the Somme and Chipilly Ridge with the 131st Infantry, 33rd Division. At the Bois de Chaume, he was wounded in the shoulder and a bullet went through the top of his helmet, grazing his scalp.

(We still have the helmet.) Though bleeding badly, he stayed with his men until finally ordered to treatment by his battalion commander. At the aid station they told him he would not go back to the front because of the severity of his wounds. The story we heard was that Grandpa Weimer drew his pistol and directed the aid station driver to get him back to his unit. He complied!

He received the Distinguished Service Cross and the Croix de Guerre with palm, among other awards. He was also a member of Chipilly American Legion Post 310 in Chicago, and in 1930 he became national commander of the Disabled American Veterans.

— Michael R. Morawey, Richardson, Texas

I enjoyed Matthew Davenport's article so much that I bought the book. I could not put it down. Compelling and superb.

— K.R. Sampson, Trenton, Mo.

'Humble Hero'

I was very impressed with Matt Grills' fine article on Sgt. Alvin York (April). I was 11 when the movie "Sergeant York" was released in 1941. A neighbor who lost an arm while serving in World War I took me to the movie. It was my first knowledge of York, and I've never forgotten his story or the movie. I have seen it on TV many times over the years and have read many articles about his life.

York was a courageous war hero – one of a few enlisted men whose names have persevered over nearly 100 years. However, I submit that his greatest feat was his dedication in the post-war years to making lives better for others. Again, I am pleased you presented this outstanding story about one of America's greatest war heroes.

— Les Johnson, Greene, Iowa

I enjoyed this article, but it didn't tell how Alvin York was able to kill more than 20 German soldiers without being killed himself. The story goes that he drew on his experiences hunting turkeys in Tennessee. He did not shoot the soldier closest to him first, but the one furthest away. Then the one second-furthest away, and so on. The soldier closest to York didn't think he was a target until he himself was the last to go.

— Merrill K. Molsberry, Las Vegas

'America Needs to Know'

I'd like to thank Matt Grills for the article about Gen. John Pershing (April). I had the pleasure of training with his grandson Richard in infantry school at Fort Benning in 1967. (He graduated. I didn't.) I didn't know until years later that he was Black Jack's grandson. He was an awfully nice guy. I was saddened to read about his death. I want to extend my best wishes to his sister-in-law, Sandra Sinclair Pershing, and the groups in which she is involved that commemorate the general and the war in which he so ably served.

— David E. Schroder, Duncan Falls, Ohio

Mexico City Policy

The Big Issues column focused on the return of the Mexico City Policy (April). I understand there are two sides to every issue. I am deeply troubled, however, when politicians attempt to justify abortion by suggesting that having it on demand is the only way to have peace in the world. They fail to recognize what abortion really is: the violent taking of a human life. No country in the world has raised its standards, economic or moral, by providing free abortions for everyone.

— Joe Strittmatter, Quincy, Mich.

VA head and 'false choice'

Veterans Choice has nothing to do with quality health care. In fact, I have received nothing but quality care from VA (Veterans Update, April). The issue is the distance that North Country veterans like myself have to

travel to receive that care. The Syracuse VAMC is a 300-mile round trip, and we are tired of having to travel that distance when we can get the same care locally. I am commander of DAV Chapter 171 in Massena, N.Y., and I send two drivers twice a week on the six- to seven-hour trip year-round. They have transported as many as six and as few as one. Some trips are an all-day event starting at 4:30 a.m. and ending at 5:30 p.m. Others are a three-and-a-half-hour trip for one half-hour appointment and back again. It's ridiculous and quite dangerous during winter months. There needs to be a better solution.

— Fred Cockayne, Potsdam, N.Y.

The problem is not long wait times or poor service. It is politicians in charge. The solution is to place the veterans in charge and eliminate political empire-building. Every hospital should be administered by a board of nine veterans chosen from posts the hospital serves. Three non-voting members would be made up of one each from doctors, nurses and staff. They would give input as to the advisability of board-proposed solutions. The board would have authority to fire any employee. When this authority lies with politicians ... well, you see where we are now.

— David Forsten, Newellton, La.

Editor's note: A photo in April's Rapid Fire section identifies the Grim Reapers air squadron as VFA-41. Its number is actually VFA-101.

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Unique among U.S. Mint products, these coins will honor the proud history of the Legion, which was founded by World War I veterans on the four pillars of veterans affairs and rehabilitation, a strong national defense, wholesome and patriotic youth programs, and Americanism.

Congress authorizes the minting of only two coins per year. Abraham Lincoln, the U.S. Army and the National Park Service Centennial are among the most recent honorees. As the legislation makes clear, there are several reasons why the Legion is worthy of selection.

It is The American Legion that convened conferences in 1923 and 1924 that crafted the original U.S. Flag Code. It is The American Legion that drafted and made the case for the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the GI Bill. It is The American Legion that pushed for the Veterans Administration to be elevated to cabinet-level status. It is The American Legion that strongly supported the comprehensive education benefits in the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act. It is The American Legion that created a scholarship fund for children of U.S. servicemembers who were killed or severely disabled while serving on active duty on or after 9/11. It is The American Legion that established its own National Emergency Fund, which provides cash relief to Legion members affected by natural disasters.

Visit any military base or unit, and you will see the popularity of collectible coins. Whether it's a challenge coin or a merit medallion, these mementoes serve as permanent reminders of a connection made between the owner and the benefactor who presented it. But the Legion's coin will be different. Because of its rarity and value, it will certainly merit a top-shelf display by even the most prolific of collectors.

One of our most legendary founders was Theodore Roosevelt Jr. A son of the former president, Roosevelt was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery at Normandy. His vision for The American Legion played a pivotal role in the contributions the organization made to this country throughout its first century. That gift endures.

"The American Legion – what it has done, what it is doing and what it will continue to do – is exactly what my grandfather and his co-founders intended to achieve," said Ted Roosevelt IV, chairman of the American Legion 100th Anniversary Honorary Committee. That achievement is worth commemorating on a unique and special coin.

Charles E. Schmidt



National Commander
Charles E. Schmidt

MEMORANDA

FLAG DAY

The American Legion has a number of resources to help posts and members promote Flag Day, including a suggested speech and the recently updated booklet "Let the People Decide." Both are available for download online.

 www.legion.org/publications

For a copy of the U.S. Flag Code, "Let's Be Right on Flag Etiquette" and other flag literature, go to **emblem.legion.org**.

For an FAQ and more about the U.S. flag, go to **www.legion.org/flag**. Pause for the Pledge will take place at 7 p.m. EDT June 14.

The Legion's Flag Alert e-newsletter is sent whenever the president calls for the flag to be flown at half-staff. Sign up for the e-newsletter online.

 www.legion.org/newsletters

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LAUREL CLEWELL

When Laurel Clewell retired from the Army in 2012 after 36 years of service, she took with her strong feelings about Old Glory.

"I think of the American flag, and I feel proud," says Clewell, a 15-year Legionnaire. "It's a sign of strength, of a nation that's so connected to its people. I really believe that the American flag is a symbol of hope, and it bothers me when people disrespect that flag."

Because of that, Clewell has made flag advocacy one of the primary missions of her Legion career. She regularly leads flag retirement ceremonies at Johnston-Blessman Post 38 in Appleton, Wis., including local youth and others in the community. She also works with area schools to provide Americanism education tools.

"We have to reach the whole child," she says. "If we teach our young how to display and treat the flag, and what it means ... I think we can make solid citizens out of those children."

Post 38 retires nearly 5,000 U.S. flags every year. "We go out and advertise in the papers and ask different businesses to bring their flags here," she says. "We have a red, white and blue box out front that collects flags. That bin is filled probably every week."

All the while, Clewell is trying to recruit new members of the Legion, too.

"There are so many reasons (to join the Legion)," she says. "When I first joined, I did not realize everything the Legion does. We have to get out there and continually show people what we are doing. Younger veterans who have children need to know that we're a family group. We are here to help support a family unit."

— Steve B. Brooks

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"I think that's what people like to hear – that we're still out there serving our country."



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Photo by Lauren Justice

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Defund public broadcasting



SUPPORT

Rep. Doug Lamborn, R-Colo.

■ Lamborn serves on the House Armed Services Committee.



OPPOSE

Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore.

■ Blumenauer serves on the House Ways and Means Committee.

U.S. taxpayers deserve a fiscally responsible government, a system that allows states to do more and allocates money only to the most essential programs. There are some things that only the federal government can do: defend our nation from attacks, regulate immigration and supervise commerce between states.

Government waste doesn't serve anybody. The path to fiscal discipline involves cutting non-essential government programs – especially those that can afford to stand on their own two feet.

That's why I have introduced two bills, H.R. 726 and H.R. 727, designed to withdraw all federal funds for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), as well as National Public Radio (NPR).

To some, \$455 million might not sound like enough money to make a difference in our \$19.5 trillion debt. But only in Washington, D.C., is half a billion dollars considered an insignificant amount. We need to return to responsible federal spending to fulfill our constitutional duties to the American people.

This is not about content. The point is that CPB and NPR are fully capable of standing on their own without an added boost from tax revenue. Both have substantial private revenue sources, and the absence of federal funds will not cause these organizations to disappear.

Finally, the purpose for federal funding of CPB is no longer relevant, given advances in technology. The intent of public broadcasting was to make telecommunications available to all U.S. citizens. Today, more than 95 percent of Americans own a TV and have access to the Internet. To continue to subsidize something that is widely available in the private market is not necessary.

For 50 years, public broadcasting has provided critical resources and services to people across America. Public broadcasting offers local and national news, education for children and adults, and the infrastructure for emergency response and public safety services. It's part of our civic fabric.

Unfortunately, the federal partnership that supports public broadcasting is again under attack. Misguided proposals to eliminate funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting –

which accounts for a whopping .001 percent of the federal budget – would have serious consequences for American families and local radio and television stations.

While all stations would be affected, rural and small communities stand to lose the most. They often don't have an alternative for local news or public affairs programming, or the revenue base to support the higher cost of broadcasting to these areas. Providing these services in Burns, Ore., costs 11 times what it does to broadcast to Portland – a gap local contributions can't fill if federal support is eliminated.

Public broadcasting is a bargain for taxpayers. Local stations across the United States leverage \$7 to \$8 of voluntary contributions and private grants for every \$1.35 spent per taxpayer per year. Americans understand this – an overwhelming majority support federal funding for public broadcasting, including a large majority of Trump voters, and public broadcasting remains the most trusted name in media.

Now is not the time to decimate access to these services and eliminate a critical lifeline to rural communities. Congress should support this treasured partnership.

THE HEART OF THE ISSUE

The Trump administration's budget proposes eliminating federal funding for public broadcasting. Critics say public broadcasting provides news, educational programming and public safety information to millions of Americans.

CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 • Phone: (202) 224-3121

The Honorable (name), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515 • Phone: (202) 225-3121



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TICKET to RIDE

Check out these new attractions at U.S. theme parks this summer.

BY LYN METTLER

Pandora Na'vi River Journey Photo courtesy Walt Disney World Resort

Summer's nearly here, and theme parks across the country are debuting new rides and attractions for vacationers. Whether you love vertical freefalls, staying cool at a water park or stepping into the fantasy worlds created in Hollywood, these amusement parks have plenty to keep you coming back this year.

DISNEY PARKS This summer, visitors to Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando can visit a new area at Animal Kingdom – the largest addition in the park's history. At “Pandora – The World of Avatar,” you can enter the mystical planet from the hit film, walking through bioluminescent rain forests and experiencing floating mountains. Two new rides include Avatar Flight of Passage, which simulates the experiences of flying through Pandora, and Na'vi River Journey, where you float down a sacred river through the rain forest. Walt Disney World offers discounted four-day Park Hopper tickets for \$209 (plus tax) and five-day Park Hopper tickets for \$224 (plus tax) for active and retired U.S. servicemembers at participating military base ticket offices.

In time for the new “Guardians of the Galaxy” movie, Disney California Adventure – part of

Disneyland Resort in Anaheim – will debut the Guardians of the Galaxy – Mission: BREAKOUT! ride. The new attraction sends riders into the story alongside Rocket Raccoon as he works to get his friends out of Collector's Fortress, against a background of music inspired by the film's soundtrack. Disneyland Resort offers Park Hopper tickets for three days at \$156 or four days at \$181 through military base ticket offices.

LEGOLAND California Guests at LEGOLAND California can now stay in NINJAGO-themed rooms at the LEGOLAND Hotel. Designed from top to bottom for families, the hotel's other themed rooms include Pirate, Kingdom, LEGO Friends and Adventure. Don't miss the in-floor whoopee cushion and disco elevator.

New this year is Surfer's Bay at LEGOLAND Water Park, where you can compete against other riders on a water raceway. Last year, LEGOLAND California added an interactive ride at NINJAGO World that lets riders use hand gestures to shoot fireballs and lightning at villains. The park offers discounts up to half off and two days free for veterans and active military at legoland.com/military.



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Ever worry about safety when attending an amusement park? According to the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions, the chance of being seriously injured on a fixed-site ride at a U.S. amusement park is **one in 16 million**.

A quarter of consumers believe the price at the pump is already too high heading into summer, according to AAA. With the national average up about 70 cents over last year to **\$2.70 per gallon**, drivers say they will be driving less, carpooling and combining errands.



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UNIVERSAL STUDIOS See New York City through the eyes of the “Tonight Show” host on Universal Orlando’s newest ride: Race Through New York Starring Jimmy Fallon. The “flying theater” zips through the Big Apple while visiting sites like the Statue of Liberty and Empire State Building.

While Universal Studios Hollywood does not have any new attractions this year, it opened its version of the Wizarding World of Harry Potter last year, along with a “Walking Dead” attraction based on the hit AMC TV show. Both Universal Orlando and Universal Studios Hollywood offer reduced prices for military and veterans at participating bases.

SIX FLAGS With “Wonder Woman” set to hit movie screens this month, Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo, Calif., has opened the Lasso of Truth ride. The swinging pendulum hits speeds of 70 mph and drops 15 stories.

To the south, Six Flags Magic Mountain in Valencia, Calif., has added the 3-D ride Justice League: Battle for Metropolis, in which visitors help save the city from supervillains Lex Luthor, the Joker and Harley Quinn. It features motion-platform vehicles, animatronic figures, special effects and laser-gun game play. Meanwhile, visitors to Six Flags Great America in Gurnee, Ill., Six Flags New England in Agawam, Mass., and Six Flags Over Texas in Dallas can take a spin on The Joker, a 4-D coaster with spinning seats on a zigzagging track with freefalls.

Most Six Flags parks offer discounted tickets for active and retired military at local bases. Some offer discounts when purchasing at the park and others do not, so plan ahead.

SEAWORLD PARKS SeaWorld Orlando’s Kraken floorless roller coaster is now a virtual reality ride, with visitors donning headsets for a deep sea adventure. At SeaWorld San Diego, Ocean Explorer lets guests tag along on a research mission aboard a mini-submarine. And SeaWorld San Antonio has a new jet-ski-inspired coaster called Wave Breaker: The Rescue, in which riders help save marine animals.

Through SeaWorld’s Waves of Honor program, active military may receive up to four single-day admission tickets for themselves and three dependents each year for one park. Discounts for veterans vary by park. Visit wavesofhonor.com for more details.

Lyn Mettler is a freelance travel writer who blogs at GotoTravelGal.com.



If you’ll be hiring a pet sitter to look after your dog, cat or other pet while traveling, consider Rover.com, a service that matches you with vetted local pet sitters, offers secure online payments and provides insurance in case of injury to your pet or the sitter, as well as for any property damage. The service allows the sitter to send you daily updates and photos of your pet via its website or app, easing your mind while away.



Schlitterbahn Water Park
Photo courtesy Schlitterbahn Galveston

Where to make waves this summer

■ **Universal Orlando** At the new Volcano Bay water park, guests can wear waterproof armbands that allow them to virtually stand in line for an attraction while in other areas. The signature ride, Krakatau Aqua Coaster, takes riders through the 200-foot volcano that is the park’s centerpiece.

■ **Schlitterbahn Water Parks** With locations in four Texas cities, as well as Kansas City, Kan., Schlitterbahn has uphill water coasters, the world’s longest tubing ride and the world’s tallest water coaster at more than 80 feet. The parks offer varying military discounts through nearby bases.

■ **Six Flags White Water** With 69 acres of water action in Marietta, Ga., Six Flags White Water offers rides like Dive Bomber, a slide that drops you straight down at more than 40 mph, as well as the Typhoon Twister, which has a five-story drop into a 67-foot bowl. Discounted military tickets are sold at local military bases, but not at the park.

■ **Carowinds** Carowinds Carolina Harbor Waterpark has 20 attractions, including Blackbeard’s Revenge, a six-story water slide complex, and Pirate’s Plank, a freefall ride. Active military and veteran tickets are \$42 (plus tax) at the gate with ID, or \$39 (plus tax) online. The price is also valid for family members.

■ **Kings Island** Near Cincinnati, Kings Island’s Soak City invites visitors to plummet seven stories on the Tropical Plunge and freefall down a funnel on Mondo Monsoon. Discounted tickets for active and retired military are available online and at the park for up to six family members.

Planning a vacation to Las Vegas? When you stay at MGM Resorts – which includes popular hotels like Mandalay Bay, Luxor, New York-New York and the newer boutique-style Delano – you can save 10 percent off rates with your military ID. Remember, though, that they charge a daily resort fee on top of the base rate.



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Steroid shots for lower back pain? Not so fast

Millions of Americans, particularly veterans, suffer from chronic lower back pain. Many turn to steroid injections directly into the affected area to ease the pain. But according to HealthDay, new research suggests steroid-injection treatment provides only short-term relief.

Citing a report by French researchers who studied 135 patients with back pain caused by inflammation between discs and bones in the lower spine, HealthDay notes that “a single steroid injection eased pain for one month. After that, however, effectiveness waned. Virtually no difference was seen one year after treatment between patients who did or didn’t get the injection.”

Participants included people who had suffered from back pain for an average of six years. Half were administered a single steroid shot; the other half received no injections. While 55 percent of those who received the steroid injection experienced less lower back pain, compared to 33 percent of those who did not receive an injection, the groups did not differ for the assessed outcomes a year after the injection. In fact, both groups ended up with “the same incidence of disc inflammation, lower quality of life, more anxiety and depression, and continued use of non-narcotic pain pills,” according to HealthDay.

For tips on tackling back pain, visit www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/patient-caregiver-education/fact-sheets/low-back-pain-fact-sheet.



Media Bakery



VA nurse develops heart failure app

BY MARK L. FUERST

Media Bakery

Cardiology nurse Lois Freeman saw that many of her heart failure patients at the VA Maryland Health Care System did not know how to monitor themselves well enough to keep from being readmitted to the hospital. But soon there will be a mobile app to help them do that thanks to Freeman and her colleagues, who won \$1 million in funding through VA’s 2016 Employee Innovation Competition.

The app will track a patient’s weight, blood pressure and daily steps, and interface with the MyHealtheVet website. It will also send secure messages to a patient’s health-care provider or cardiologist, and if he or she is gaining weight or experiencing symptoms, they can adjust medications to prevent an ER visit, Freeman says.

Scheduled for testing later this year at both an urban and a rural VA clinic, the app will remind veterans when to take medication and educate them about heart failure, which affects 5.7 million U.S. adults, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Every year, half a million people receive a heart failure diagnosis.

“The goal is for the patient to be invested in (his or her) care – to take medications, exercise and eat a healthy diet,” Freeman says.

“If heart failure is not treated, the life expectancy is five years. With treatment, a person can live 30 to 40 years with good quality of life.”

The main symptoms of heart failure are shortness of breath and wheezing after limited physical exertion, and swelling of the feet, ankles, hands or abdomen. Risk factors include high blood pressure, narrowed heart arteries or diabetes, and heart attack. A person may need to take two or more medications to treat heart failure, as well as other nitrates for chest pain, a statin to lower cholesterol or blood-thinning medications to help prevent blood clots.

Another common heart condition among veterans is ischemic heart disease, also known as coronary artery disease. It reduces blood flow to the heart and often directly relates to atherosclerosis (hardening and narrowing of the arteries), diabetes, high blood pressure or high cholesterol levels. Treatment usually involves

See **HEART** on page 21

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Models

Your life story has been a real page-turner. Now see if you could turn the page on hep C and start your next chapter.

ZEPATIER is a once-a-day pill with the power to cure chronic hepatitis C (hep C) infection. ZEPATIER is a prescription medicine used to treat chronic (long-lasting) hep C genotypes 1 or 4 infection in adults. ZEPATIER may sometimes be given with another medicine called ribavirin.

In clinical studies, 94% to 97%* of patients with genotype 1 and 97% to 100%† of patients with genotype 4 chronic hep C infection were cured with once-daily ZEPATIER. Cure means the hep C virus is not detected in the blood when measured 3 months after treatment is completed.

Start writing your next chapter today. Talk with your health care provider about ZEPATIER.

* In studies of patients with genotype 1 chronic hep C infection, the percentages of patients cured after taking ZEPATIER were: 94% (90 of 96 patients); 94% (115 of 122 patients); 95% (273 of 288 patients); 95% (179 of 189 patients); 96% (76 of 79 patients); and 97% (93 of 96 patients).

† In studies of patients with genotype 4 chronic hep C infection, the percentages of patients cured after taking ZEPATIER were: 97% (64 of 66 patients) and 100% (8 of 8 patients).

Important safety information

Before starting treatment with ZEPATIER, your health care provider will do blood tests to check for hepatitis B virus infection. **If you have ever had hepatitis B virus infection, the hepatitis B virus could become active again during or after treatment of hep C virus infection with ZEPATIER.**

This is called hepatitis B virus reactivation, and it may cause serious liver problems including liver failure and death. Your health care provider will monitor you if you are at risk for hepatitis B virus reactivation during treatment and after you stop taking ZEPATIER.

ZEPATIER is not for people with certain liver problems. Before taking ZEPATIER, tell your health care provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you have ever had hepatitis B virus infection or have liver problems other than hep C. Also tell your health care provider if you have ever taken any medicine for hep C, have HIV, have had or are waiting for a liver transplant, or are nursing, pregnant, or trying to get pregnant.

Tell your health care provider about all of the medicines you take. ZEPATIER may affect how other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how ZEPATIER works. Some medicines cannot be taken with ZEPATIER. Your health care provider can tell you if it is safe to take ZEPATIER with other medicines.

ZEPATIER may cause increases in your liver-related blood tests, which could be a sign of serious liver problems. Your health care provider will do blood tests to check your liver before and during treatment with ZEPATIER. Tell your health care provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms or if they get worse during treatment with ZEPATIER: loss of appetite, nausea and vomiting, feeling tired or weak, yellowing of your skin or eyes, or color changes in your stool.

If you take ZEPATIER with ribavirin, be sure you read the Medication Guide for ribavirin. Common side effects of ZEPATIER include feeling tired, headache, and nausea. When ZEPATIER is used with ribavirin, common side effects also include low red blood cell counts.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please read the adjacent Patient Information for ZEPATIER, including information about the risk of the hepatitis B virus (HBV) becoming active again in patients who have ever had HBV infection, and discuss it with your doctor.

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 **MERCK**

Patient Information

ZEPATIER® (ZEP-ah-teer) (elbasvir and grazoprevir) tablets



What you need to know about ZEPATIER

- Before you take this medicine, be sure you understand what it is for and how to take it safely.
- Keep this information.
- If you have questions about this medicine, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- Every time you get a refill, look at the Patient Information. There may be new information.
- Your healthcare provider may prescribe ZEPATIER with a medicine called ribavirin. Ribavirin is also known as Rebetol®, Copegus®, Ribasphere®, and Moderiba®. **If you take ZEPATIER and ribavirin, be sure you read the Medication Guide for ribavirin.**

What is the most important information I should know about ZEPATIER?

ZEPATIER can cause serious side effects, including, **Hepatitis B virus reactivation**. Before starting treatment with ZEPATIER, your healthcare provider will do blood tests to check for hepatitis B virus infection. If you have ever had hepatitis B virus infection, the hepatitis B virus could become active again during or after treatment of hepatitis C virus infection with ZEPATIER. Hepatitis B virus becoming active again (called reactivation) may cause serious liver problems including liver failure and death. Your healthcare provider will monitor you if you are at risk for hepatitis B virus reactivation during treatment and after you stop taking ZEPATIER.

For more information about side effects, see the section “What are the possible side effects of ZEPATIER?”

What is ZEPATIER®?

ZEPATIER is a prescription medicine used with or without ribavirin to treat chronic (long-lasting) hepatitis C virus (HCV) genotypes 1 or 4 infection in adults.

It is not known if ZEPATIER is safe or effective in children under 18 years old, people awaiting a liver transplant, or people who have had a liver transplant.

Who should not take ZEPATIER?

Do not take ZEPATIER if you have certain liver problems.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking ZEPATIER?

Before taking ZEPATIER, tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including if you:

- have ever had hepatitis B virus infection
- have liver problems other than hepatitis C
- have ever taken any medicine for hepatitis C
- have HIV
- have had or are waiting for a liver transplant
- are pregnant or trying to get pregnant. ZEPATIER has not been studied in pregnant women. We do not know if ZEPATIER will harm your baby while you are pregnant.
 - **Males and females who take ZEPATIER and ribavirin should also read the ribavirin Medication Guide for important pregnancy, contraception, and infertility information.**
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. We do not know if ZEPATIER gets in your breast milk and gets passed to your baby.
 - **Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby during treatment with ZEPATIER.**

Are you taking other medicines?

Tell your healthcare provider about all of the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. ZEPATIER may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how ZEPATIER works. Some medicines cannot be taken with ZEPATIER. Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take ZEPATIER with other medicines.

- Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with this medicine.
- **Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.**

How do I take ZEPATIER?

- **Take 1 ZEPATIER tablet at the same time every day.**
- ZEPATIER comes in a blister package of individually-packaged tablets. Keep the tablets in this package until you are ready to take your dose.
- Take ZEPATIER exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.
- Take ZEPATIER with or without food.
- Do not stop taking ZEPATIER without first talking with your healthcare provider.
- If you take more than your prescribed dose, call your healthcare provider right away.

What if I forget to take ZEPATIER?

- Do not take two doses of ZEPATIER at the same time to make up for a missed dose.
- If you are not sure what to do, call your healthcare provider or pharmacist. It is important that you do not miss or skip doses of ZEPATIER during treatment.

What are the possible side effects of ZEPATIER?

ZEPATIER can cause serious side effects, including:

Hepatitis B virus reactivation. See “What is the most important information

I should know about ZEPATIER?”

Signs of liver problems. ZEPATIER may cause increases in your liver-related blood tests. This could be a sign of serious liver problems. Your healthcare provider will do blood tests to check your liver before and during treatment with ZEPATIER. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms or if they get worse during treatment with ZEPATIER:

- loss of appetite
- nausea and vomiting
- feeling tired or weak
- yellowing of your skin or eyes
- color changes in your stool

Common side effects of ZEPATIER when used without ribavirin include:

- feeling tired
- headache
- nausea
- trouble sleeping
- diarrhea

Common side effects of ZEPATIER when used with ribavirin include:

- low red blood cell counts (anemia)
- headache
- feeling tired
- shortness of breath
- rash or itching
- feeling irritable
- stomach pain
- depression
- joint pain

If you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away, tell your healthcare provider.

There may be other side effects to ZEPATIER that are not listed.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088. For more information or medical advice, call your doctor.

Where should I keep ZEPATIER?

- Keep ZEPATIER in its original packaging (blister package) until you are ready to take it. Do not take the tablets out of the original blister package to store in another container such as a pill box. This is important because the tablets are sensitive to moisture. The package is designed to protect them.
- Keep ZEPATIER at room temperature.
- Keep ZEPATIER and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information about ZEPATIER

- Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in the patient information. Do not use ZEPATIER for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give ZEPATIER to other people, even if they have the same condition. It may harm them.
- If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or pharmacist. You can ask them for information about ZEPATIER that was written for health professionals.
- For more information, call Merck, the company that makes ZEPATIER, at 1-877-888-4231 or go to www.ZEPATIER.com.

What are the ingredients in ZEPATIER?

The active ingredients are: elbasvir and grazoprevir.

The inactive ingredients are: colloidal silicon dioxide, copovidone, croscarmellose sodium, hypromellose, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, mannitol, microcrystalline cellulose, sodium chloride, sodium lauryl sulfate, and vitamin E polyethylene glycol succinate.

The tablets are film-coated with a coating material containing the following inactive ingredients: carnauba wax, ferrousferic oxide, hypromellose, iron oxide red, iron oxide yellow, lactose monohydrate, titanium dioxide, and triacetin.

This Patient Information has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

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INFC-1170420-0009 03/17



DITCH the junk food

According to *U.S. News & World Report*, junk foods trigger addictive behavior. To fight off temptation, the magazine offers eight tips:

■ **Know your trigger foods.** And make them a treat for when you go out to eat.

■ **Stock up on healthy foods.** Fill your fridge with fresh fruits and vegetables, and keep healthy snacks on hand.

■ **Eat consistent meals.** Going too long without eating causes your blood sugar to drop, which contributes to cravings.

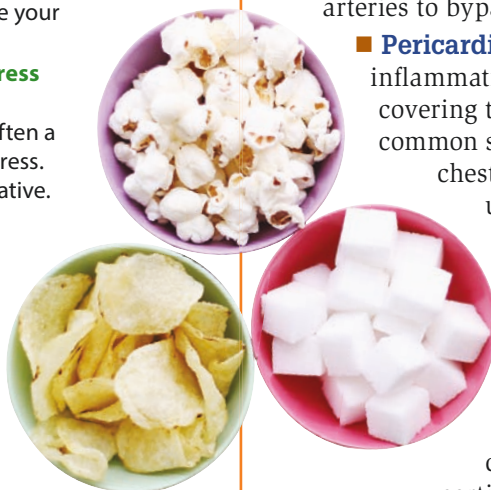
■ **Balance your plate.** Make sure all your meals have plenty of protein, fiber and healthy fats, which slow digestion, stabilize blood sugar and keep you full.

■ **Practice the five-ingredient rule.** Cut back on unhealthy, highly processed foods by checking the label.

■ **Develop a new routine.** If you always have dessert after dinner, change your routine.

■ **Manage stress levels.** Food cravings are often a response to stress. Find an alternative.

■ **Get to bed earlier.** Inadequate sleep stimulates brain centers, increasing junk food cravings.



Media Bakery

Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their physicians when they have health problems.

HEART *continued from page 18*

lifestyle changes and, if necessary, drugs to lower cholesterol and blood pressure, and procedures to restore or improve blood flow.

Other common heart conditions and treatments include:

■ **Valvular heart disease** is characterized by damage to, or a defect in, one of the four heart valves. Rheumatic fever, bacterial infection or a heart attack may cause damage. You may be prescribed long-term antibiotics or anti-clotting drugs. If a heart valve is not functioning properly, it can be surgically replaced by an artificial valve.

■ **Heart attack or myocardial infarction** occurs when the blood flow to a part of the heart is blocked, damaging the heart muscle. If you have blocked coronary arteries, a surgeon can place a stent to help keep them open, or perform coronary bypass surgery and graft veins or arteries from the aorta directly to the arteries to bypass the blocks.

■ **Pericarditis** is inflammation of tissue covering the heart. A common symptom is chest pain, which usually resolves without treatment.

You may take over-the-counter painkillers, colchicine or corticosteroids. If you develop complications due to fluid buildup around the heart, you may need surgery.

■ **Endocarditis** is inflammation of the lining of the heart chambers and valves, most often caused by bacterial infection. It is usually treated with antibiotics.



Media Bakery

■ **Slow heart rhythm**, often treated by implanting a cardiac pacemaker.

■ **Sustained ventricular arrhythmias** are abnormal heart rhythms – usually too fast – in the heart's two lower chambers. These off-and-on rhythms are usually treated with medication or electric therapy.

Veterans can be awarded service-connected disability compensation for all the above conditions. In particular, ischemic heart disease has been linked to Agent Orange exposure.

Veterans who have been exposed to Agent Orange are not required to prove a connection between their ischemic heart disease and military service to claim disability benefits.

Mark L. Fuerst is a Brooklyn-based health and fitness writer.

For heart disease prevention, follow these tips to reduce the risks of high blood pressure, atherosclerosis and heart attack:

- Don't smoke.
- Limit alcohol consumption (maximum two drinks for men and one for women each day).
- Eat a balanced diet that's low in salt and saturated fats.
- Exercise regularly. Lose weight if you are overweight.
- If you have diabetes, maintain careful control of your blood sugar.
- Reduce stress.

Shulkin: 'Choice 2.0' to work better

BY TOM PHILPOTT

Congress has extended the controversial Choice program but only for perhaps five months until December, when its initial \$10 billion funding pool set in 2014 is expected to run dry.

By then, says VA Secretary David Shulkin, Congress should be able to consider and approve a new Choice program to ease veterans' access to civilian health care when they need it. Shulkin tentatively labeled the plan being drafted as "Choice 2.0." He promised to deliver a legislative proposal to Congress by early fall.

"We need to make sure the Choice program not only continues but works better for veterans," Shulkin said days before President Trump signed the extension bill in April. "We know it hasn't worked the way we've wanted it to work. It's too hard to use."

Shulkin made those remarks on C-SPAN's "Newsmakers," where he laid out details for revising Choice after discussing possible changes earlier with veterans service organizations and, in March, testifying on Choice reforms before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

The VA chief told C-SPAN that he wants his department to begin routinely comparing VA health-care quality and accessibility to the private sector. "That's how veterans can make the best-informed choices for their lives and their well-being, understanding what VA has to offer and what the private sector has to offer," he said. "Where VA isn't doing it as well, I want veterans going to the private sector."

"But I also want people to recognize," Shulkin continued, "that VA is doing some extraordinary things much better than the private sector, like behavioral health care and many of the programs dedicated to the conditions people suffer when they come back from some of our conflicts."

VA has launched a website that allows veterans to see and understand wait times for care inside VA, www.accesstocare.va.gov. Shulkin challenged the private sector to do the same.

Congress rushed to enact Choice in 2014 in response to a wait-time scandal that had rocked VA health care. Proponents initially envisioned issuing

cards to veterans to access private-sector care as they pleased. When analysts warned that VA health-care costs would skyrocket, congressional designers added late-hour cost controls. Veterans could only qualify for Choice if they lived more than 40 miles from a VA facility or had to wait more than 30 days for a VA appointment.

Even then, Congress allowed VA to keep tight controls on access under Choice using managed-care contractors and approved networks of providers. This led to long delays and mounting frustrations for Choice users, and complaints from care providers of delayed payments and administrative hurdles.

Shulkin has suggested that a reformed Choice plan should scrap the two current

tools for determining eligibility. But without any sort of screens, VA costs could soar, so Shulkin and staff are studying ways to smooth access to VA-paid private-sector health care using different cost controls. One model would give veterans with service-connected injuries or ailments priority over those seeking treatment for unrelated conditions.

A second idea is to charge veterans' other health insurance plans for the cost of care delivered under Choice, to include insurance provided by employers or even Medicare coverage eligibility. A third option would establish co-payments for Choice users. That might be appropriate, for example, when VA health care is available but veterans elect to use non-VA care. Those treated for service-connected conditions might pay a modest co-pay and all others a higher amount.

Delivering a complex Choice reform package in early fall won't give Congress much time to study the details and pass it before the current program expires in December, Shulkin acknowledged.

"But I am confident," he said, "that when it comes to protecting and honoring our commitment to veterans, Congress and certainly the president (are) committed to doing whatever it needs to do to make sure that we meet that time frame."

Tom Philpott has been covering military personnel and veterans issues for nearly 40 years.



VA Secretary David Shulkin Photo by Clay Lomneth

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3-1/2" SUPER BRIGHT NINE LED ALUMINUM FLASHLIGHT



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SOLAR ROPE LIGHT
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SAVE 66%

SUPER COUPON
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• 16 ft. lit, 22 ft. long

~~\$13.99~~ Compare **\$29.97**

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SAVE **\$149**

SUPER COUPON
\$289.99

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Wheel kit sold separately.

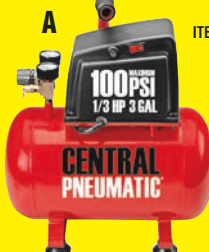
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CENTRAL PNEUMATIC

SUPER COUPON

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#1 SELLING JACKS IN AMERICA

SUPER COUPON

RAPID PUMP® 3 TON LOW PROFILE HEAVY DUTY STEEL FLOOR JACK

ITEM 61282 shown
61253/62326

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• Weighs 73 lbs.

SUPER COUPON
\$79.99

~~\$94.99~~

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20"

Customer Rating **★★★★**

16736497

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26", 16 DRAWER ROLLER CABINET
ITEM 61609/67831 shown



• 1060 lb. capacity
• 14,600 cu. in. of storage
• Weighs 235 lbs.

SAVE **\$653**

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\$299.99

~~\$349.99~~ Compare **\$952.99**

Customer Rating **★★★★**

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CENTECH

SUPER COUPON

Customer Rating **★★★★**

3-IN-1 PORTABLE POWER PACK WITH JUMP STARTER
ITEM 38391/62376/62306 shown



SAVE 38%

SUPER COUPON
\$39.99

~~\$49.99~~ Compare **\$64.99**

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HaulMaster

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3/8" x 14 FT. GRADE 43 TOWING CHAIN
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SAVE 67%

SUPER COUPON
\$19.99

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• 5400 lb. capacity

Compare **\$60.95**

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drillmaster

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ITEM 69651 62868/62873 68239 shown

18 VOLT CORDLESS 3/8" DRILL/DRIVER WITH KEYLESS CHUCK



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SAVE 65%

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\$16.99

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16756743

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HARDY

SUPER COUPON

• 5 mil thickness

Customer Rating **★★★★**

POWDER-FREE NITRILE GLOVES PACK OF 100



Item 68498 shown

SAVE 62%

YOUR CHOICE
\$5.99

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16756833

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CHICAGO ELECTRIC POWER TOOLS

SUPER COUPON

Customer Rating **★★★★**

10" SLIDING COMPOUND MITER SAW
ITEM 61971/61972 98199 shown



SAVE \$94

SUPER COUPON
\$84.99

~~\$114.99~~

Compare **\$179**

Blade sold separately.

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HaulMaster

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ITEM 69505/62418/66537 shown



Customer Rating **★★★★**

SAVE 66%

SUPER COUPON
\$5.99

~~\$8.99~~ Compare **\$17.97**

16757391

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SUPER COUPON

Customer Rating **★★★★**

TWO TIER COLLAPSIBLE EASY-STORE STEP LADDER



SAVE 50%

SUPER COUPON
\$19.99

~~\$29.99~~ Compare **\$39.99**

• 225 lb. capacity

ITEM 67514

16760511

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CENTRAL PNEUMATIC

SUPER COUPON

Customer Rating **★★★★**

3/8" x 50 FT. RETRACTABLE AIR HOSE REEL
ITEM 93897 shown 69265/62344



SAVE \$138

SUPER COUPON
\$59.99

~~\$79.99~~ Compare **\$198.45**

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Henry Kissinger Photo by Lucas Carter



Hank Greenberg Photo by Lucas Carter

If not for the GI Bill

Henry Kissinger and Hank Greenberg reflect on the benefit that changed America.

BY JEFF STOFFER

Their Park Avenue offices are separated by just a few blocks. Each grew up in a modest household. Both served in the U.S. Army during World War II, European theater. One enlisted; the other was drafted. Each received the Bronze Star. Maurice “Hank” Greenberg, after further service in the Korean War, led history’s largest insurance and financial corporation, American International Group. Henry Kissinger, now an international consultant and best-selling author, famously guided the U.S. State Department through the dusk of Vietnam and into the long, slow thaw of the Cold War. They are friends. They go to work every day envisioning a bright future for America and the world. And they have something more in common: both agree that if not for the GI Bill, drafted by The American Legion, the world would be a very different place.

The American Legion Magazine recently spoke with Kissinger, whose family fled Nazi Germany in 1938, and Greenberg, now chairman and CEO of C.V. Starr & Co., Inc., a global financial services firm, in their Manhattan offices.

Describe your entry into U.S. military service and early impression of it.

Kissinger: I worked in a shaving-brush factory, and I went to city college at night, which was

substantially free. I came to the United States and lived largely in a refugee environment. When I was drafted into the Army, after many different movements, I wound up in the 84th Infantry Division as a rifleman. The 84th Infantry Division came from northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. So, I was surrounded there by what I would consider to be fundamental Americans and readily learned day-to-day living with Americans.

Greenberg: I played football in high school, and getting gasoline to travel from one town to another to compete was cut off. So football season ended very early. The war was on. I couldn’t wait to join. I was 17. I hitchhiked to Newburgh, N.Y., and walked into the enlistment office late in the afternoon, and they said, “Where are you going to stay tonight?” I said, “I don’t know yet.”

They gave me a ticket to New York City to some hotel they had arranged. They said, “Your mother has to sign your enlistment papers.” So I went outside, and I signed it.

How did the Army influence you early?

Greenberg: When the war ended, I was a tech sergeant. I was 19-and-a-half years old. That’s five stripes – one below master sergeant. Pretty young. I could have gotten a field commission about three months before the war ended. I was in Patton’s

Army, XX Corps, and if you got a field commission you had to leave the platoon you were with and go elsewhere. I didn't want to leave the platoon I'd been with for months, so I refused that.

Kissinger: In the military, you are who you are. It doesn't matter what you were before, or after. In my life, one of the interesting things was that I had – and still have, obviously – an accent. Some think it's a trademark. But I was very self-conscious about it. When I entered the Army, nobody ever asked me about my accent in the three-and-a-half years I served. It wasn't until I got back to Harvard that people started reminding me that I was foreign-born. So, the Army was a great Americanizing experience for me.

How did the GI Bill help you?

Kissinger: Before the war, I could never have dreamt of going to one of the elite schools because I had to work. I was admitted to Harvard and got most of my higher education there, and it was the GI Bill that made that possible.

Greenberg: I was interviewed by West Point after the war and told them I hadn't finished high school. They said they had a prep school I could go to first. I wasn't sure I wanted to start that low down after fighting through a war and being a tech sergeant. I took a commission in the reserves and came back, (but) I had to finish high school first, which was the hardest thing in my life at that time – going back to high school. I went to school in New York City, the Rhodes School. I got a room in New York on West 20th Street for \$5 a week, way over toward the river. I didn't know anybody in New York City. It was a very lonely time. It took a lot of discipline not to go back to the Army right then. I was very tempted to go back but decided to finish, and I did. And I went to college. The GI Bill paid for my high school, undergraduate and law school.

What was college like for veterans at that time?

Kissinger: When I came to Harvard, I was ignorant of the procedures, so I applied in April of the year I wanted to go to Harvard, and you had to apply over a year ahead. They accepted me, but then it turned out they didn't have enough rooms. For the first three weeks, I had to sleep in beds in the gymnasium. I was 24 when I arrived at Harvard, and the (typical) freshmen were 17 or 18. Most of my friends in college were veterans, because of the age difference.

Greenberg: All the universities were jammed with vets. I got into the University of Miami. I knew some guys from my high school who were (there) so I went. I started taking business school courses, and I found that boring. I went into pre-law and then took my first year of law school there. Since I wasn't going to practice down there, I transferred up to New York Law School and graduated. Then the Korean War broke out, and I was recalled almost right away.

GI BILL continued on page 28



Legion's 'Salute to the GI Bill' exhibit opening at National WWII Museum

The National World War II Museum in New Orleans presents "The Greatest Legislation: An American Legion Centennial Salute to the GI Bill," an exhibit opening June 20.

In addition to illustrated panels and videos, also displayed will be original signed pages of the actual Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 on loan from the National Archives, a pen used by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to sign the historic legislation, and Roosevelt's original speech announcing its passage into law after months of tireless effort and lobbying by The American Legion.

To open the exhibit, an admission-free reception, panel discussion and forum led by American Legion 100th Anniversary Honorary Committee Chairman Ted Roosevelt IV is scheduled at the museum on June 20. Activities begin at 5 p.m. and continue until 7:30 p.m.

Scheduled speakers include author and former U.S. Sen. James Webb of Virginia, architect and champion of the Post-9/11 GI Bill; American Legion Executive Director Verna Jones; Student Veterans of America President and CEO Jared Lyon; John Kamin, the Legion's assistant director of Veterans Employment & Education; and a VA representative.

Video presentations on the GI Bill's influence within the display include interviews with former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, international business leader Hank Greenberg, USAA chairman and retired Air Force Gen. Lester Lyles, American Legion Department of Missouri Adjutant Lowry Finley-Jackson, and descendants of Harry W. Colmery, the American Legion past national commander who assembled what would become the GI Bill in longhand in the winter of 1943-1944.

Those interested in attending the free reception, forum and opening can reserve online at www.nationalww2museum.org or call 1-877-813-3329, ext. 412.



Members of the American Legion GI Bill team poses in front of the Legion's Washington, D.C., office in 1944. In the front row, left to right, are Lyon W. Brandon, Past National Commander Roane Waring, U.S. Rep. John Gibson of Georgia, Past National Commander Harry W. Colmery, Pat Kelly and Frank Riley. In the back row, left to right, are National Legislative Director Francis Sullivan, Past National Commander John Stelle, Dave Camelon of Hearst News Service, Sam Rorex, Publicity Director Jack Cejnar and National Rehabilitation Director T.O. Kraabel. American Legion National Library

Warren Atherton and ‘the power of a team’

When Warren Atherton of Stockton, Calif., was elected national commander of The American Legion in 1943, hundreds of propositions had been made to help newly discharged veterans of World War II, many disabled, who were returning home at a clip of about 75,000 per month. Few of those proposals became law or even policy.

The U.S. government was not prepared for such a surge of veterans in need. VA health care was in its infancy. The disability claims process was bogged down. Education and career opportunities were almost nil for those who came home changed by wartime experience, many of whom had suspended their educations and careers to serve in uniform.

On the eve of his election to lead the nation's largest veterans organization, Atherton announced that home and business loans for returning veterans, along with education aid, would be the principle objectives of his term. He quickly appointed a special committee of top Legionnaires with former Illinois Lt. Gov. John Stelle, a future American Legion national commander, as chairman. The committee's tasks were to prepare a clear omnibus bill and campaign for its adoption. Eight months later, the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 – the GI Bill of Rights – was signed into law, and the country was on its way to over a half-century of prosperity and growth.

American Legion Past National Commander Harry W. Colmery often gets credit as the author of the original GI Bill because he distilled in longhand the multiple initiatives into one 10-plank platform, working night and day in his room at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C., in the winter of 1943 and 1944. Atherton and Colmery both, however, would correct any attribution of credit to one person. The bill, and its effects, proved bigger than any individual.

Many members of Congress worked closely with the Legion to bring the measure to life. Sen. Ernest McFarland of Arizona, who was actively involved with many veterans organizations, drummed up support for it on Capitol Hill. U.S. Rep. Edith Nourse Rogers of Massachusetts helped write and co-sponsor the legislation and has been called the “mother of the GI Bill” for her contributions. She was among the veterans who stood behind President Roosevelt when he signed the landmark act on June 22, 1944.

Atherton applied his military and business background to assemble a team that would not just talk about the problem, but solve it.

An Army captain in France during World War I, he returned home to California and married Ann Holt, daughter of Benjamin Holt, founder of Caterpillar, Inc. Atherton began a law practice there and was later widely respected as a Stockton city judge and president of the Chamber of Commerce. Atherton also later worked as general counsel for the California Department of Veterans Affairs and as a consultant to the U.S. secretary of war.

The University of the Pacific Library in Stockton houses the Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections, where many correspondences pertaining to the GI Bill – and The American Legion's efforts to make it a reality – can be found. The papers also contain clippings, scrapbooks, photographs and memorabilia that amplify his continuous effort to keep the GI Bill remembered as a team achievement.

Atherton was often asked to record the efforts of exceptional Legionnaires who contributed to its passage. “The American Legion's fight to adopt was an all-time demonstration of the power of a team fighting every inch of the way to reach their goal,” he wrote of the GI Bill's birth. “The nationwide support of

every post and every unit of the Auxiliary was outstanding. The support of the American people was enthusiastic. The cooperation of Congress was all that representatives of American citizenry could give."

The special committee included Stelle, who served as chairman; Past National Commander Colmery of Topeka, Kan.; W. Bea Waldrup, a prominent banker and member of The American Legion's Rehabilitation Commission; Robert Sisson, chairman of the Rehabilitation Commission; National Legislative Commission Chairman Maurice Devine; Robert M. McCurdy of California, who later became Pasadena's city manager; Sam Rorex, federal district attorney for Arkansas; and others.

"These men were ... the ball carriers," Atherton said. "They took advantage of openings made by the line. They followed the determined blockers who knocked out opposition. They were the ground gainers who finally carried our ball over the line."

American Legion department commanders, service officers and state committees also worked tirelessly on the campaign at the local level. They called upon their congressional delegations, in Washington and at home, and worked with the media to fuel overwhelming public demand for speedy enactment of the bill.

The press, particularly newspapers published by William Randolph Hearst, largely supported the Legion's efforts to help veterans of World War II. Once passed and put into service, the measure ultimately produced millions of college graduates, including scientists, engineers, doctors and educators who Atherton would later describe as the "backbone of our national security." The incentive of free college tuition ultimately became so attractive that the United States could go more than 40 years, and continuing, without a draft.

Successor bills were passed for veterans of the Korean War, the Cold War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War and, in 2009, those who had served in the war on terrorism. By the time the Post-9/11 GI Bill was passed and enacted, the most common argument was that none of the successor bills matched the 1944 original.

As the significance of the first GI Bill grew more obvious in the mid-1960s, and most of its creators were still alive to discuss it, many requests came to record the story of its passage, including a 1966 resolution from the Department of California to the Legion's National Internal Affairs Commission, for an official history of the battle to get it passed. Also at that time, an Indiana University student, the Rev. Lyle P. Murphy, had worked with the American Legion National Headquarters Library to prepare a seminar paper titled "The Enactment of the G.I. Bill of Rights." It was obtained and distributed throughout the organization.

In a letter dated Sept. 8, 1966, to American Legion Department of California Commander Ed Sharkley, regarding a resolution to specifically commend Stelle and Atherton on the GI Bill, Atherton wrote, "I agree with Harry Colmery that the whole matter should be initiated on an impartial basis not emphasizing the contribution of any individual."

Personal letters in the Atherton papers include correspondences among members of the special committee to ensure that no individual receives more credit than the group as a whole.

In 1968, American Legion National Librarian Thomas V. Hull

gathered the congressional documents, hearing transcriptions, and other records to put the story together and show that the GI Bill was not about individuals but a massive testament to the power of mutual helpfulness, as stated in the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution. At the same time, University of Maryland history professor Keith W. Olson was in the Legion library researching for a study titled "The G.I. Bill of Rights and Its Relationship to Higher Education."

The Mayflower Hotel suite in Washington is recognized as the place where Colmery assembled the bill, but Atherton later added that "at all times during the campaign, the National Headquarters of the American Legion at 1608 K St. N.W., Washington, D.C., remained the headquarters of the judge advocate, the GI Bill Committee, and myself as national commander, when appearing before Congress."

Atherton also explained that decisions of the committee, after his approval, were advanced for review to acting National Judge Advocate Francis Sullivan, with directions to prepare legislation for submission to Congress. Sullivan later reported that he had prepared it with the assistance of a congressional bill writer, and delivered it to Stelle, the special committee chairman. In January 1944, the measure was introduced in the Senate by Bennett Champ Clark of Missouri and in the House of Representatives with numerous co-signers.

"About halfway through the campaign, and after some hearings, there were requests for changes and amendments by members of both houses and our committee," Atherton wrote.

"The entire bill was rewritten by congressional bill writers, including the changes, most or all of which were concurred by the GI Bill committee."

Atherton requested that when Colmery received The American Legion's Distinguished Service Medal in 1975, for his lifetime of service, that he might have the privilege of seconding the motion and take the opportunity to name a few of the other leaders on the GI Bill Committee.

"John (Stelle) in particular, spent most of five months in Washington at his own expense working for the bill. Sen. Clark, the then-senators from Illinois, Les Arends and Mrs. Rogers, Lawrence Smith ... and Eleanor Smith, president of the Auxiliary, should be included."

Atherton said Colmery could surely name others whose contributions were essential, but the list would be endless. "However, with your help," Atherton wrote to Colmery, "I think we can agree upon a few of the very outstanding persons both in and out of the Legion, without whose assistance the GI Bill, as we know it, might have failed."

Colmery made it clear in his letter to Atherton that "uppermost was to give credit to others." A picture taken at the Mayflower Hotel quotes Colmery in the caption saying, "This was not the work of one man, but more properly what a dedicated group accomplished under the leadership of Warren Atherton."

Both past national commanders used the spotlight cast upon themselves over the GI Bill to deliver a greater message about The American Legion, on the power of teamwork.

— Michael Hjelmstad



National Commander
Warren Atherton (1943-1944)



WATCH VIDEO ONLINE

Hank Greenberg, Henry Kissinger and others describe the impact of the GI Bill on their lives, and on the world.

www.legion.org/legiontv

How did World War II veterans defy concerns that they wouldn't integrate well?

Kissinger: Veteran students at Harvard were outstanding. They were more disciplined. They had learned how to focus. They had more or less discovered who they were. Most freshmen, or many freshmen, were on a journey of self-discovery. That was natural for combat veterans.

Greenberg: Military experience rounded them out, made them different from what they were before. The discipline. The leadership skills. You have also been through a war. Life-or-death experiences every day. So your outlook is much different. You mature very quickly, or you don't.

Did it occur to you then that the GI Bill would have such a profound effect?

Greenberg: I thought it would change *me*. I didn't think of the whole country then. I wasn't mature enough, in that way. It had tremendous influence, and I recognize that now.

Kissinger: I am afraid we took it for granted. Now, I realize the enormous impact that the GI Bill had. In those days, we sort of thought it was a benefit we were entitled to. But it was a very creative and original development. Later, I could appreciate The American Legion, not just for the GI Bill, but for keeping the spirit of comradeship alive and for the commitment to American defense, which is such an important characteristic.

Do you think the GI Bill's grass-roots origin contributed to its effectiveness?

Kissinger: It certainly was an important factor in its long-term success, that it was done by people who wanted to make up, to some extent, for the years of service that veterans had given their country. They were focused directly on their immediate necessities.

Greenberg: The number of men and women under arms during World War II was enormous. You couldn't just push them aside. And there was a feeling back home, I think, that we owed something to the people who fought that war. People back home were working in manufacturing, working at building aircraft, tanks ... you name it. The whole country was at war – some in the active war, some on the homefront. The whole country mobilized to thank those who did what they had to do.

What made the GI Bill so effective?

Kissinger: The success of the first GI Bill, judging by my own life, was that it was so uncomplicated. You did not have to submit a lot of bureaucratic material. You were not judged by various achievements. You were entitled to it, as a veteran. If you flunked out, that was your problem. But it's one of the most – maybe *the* most – unbureaucratic benefits with which I am familiar ... the automaticity with which you could form your life, from being in the service to starting your education.

Greenberg: A lot depends on the individual. You have access to education and the benefits you're entitled to, whether it's health care or whatever it may be, even pointing you in the right direction for a job with some help from the government. But a lot of it you have to do yourself. You can't become a slave to government assistance. You are trained to be self-reliant. You have educational benefits, but you have to use them. You can't sit back and say, "What else am I entitled to?" You're trained. Take advantage of it.

What did the GI Bill do for America?

Greenberg: It put us on a growth course. It took a bunch of young men and women and helped them get an education. They were all motivated. They were proud of their country. They were proud of what they had done. They sparked growth that never would have happened. The country as a whole benefited. Yes, we had to rebuild parts of the world afterwards, which created great opportunities. We knew how to manufacture. We knew how to train people. I wouldn't have had the same responsibilities at 19 years old in normal civilian life. At 19, I was 25 mentally.

Kissinger: The big challenge for America at the end of the war was to reintegrate the millions who had interrupted their lives to serve their country and, secondly, to attest American policy to a world in which we could no longer be isolated. So, the GI Bill performed two functions, at least. One, it enabled returning veterans to define a trajectory for themselves, supported by their country. And secondly, it enabled the country – on the basis of this reservoir of people who had been educated both in the war and then in the GI Bill – to perform a responsible international role.

What might have become of each of you, professionally, if not for the GI Bill?

Greenberg: Hard to say. I'd have done something. I might have played professional football.

SINGING A NEW TUNE: Living with Advanced Bladder Cancer



Phil Esser discovered his passion for music during four happy and productive years in the United States Air Force as Airman Second Class. “I always knew I wanted to sing since I was five years old. An opportunity to sing in a Denver club while in military training, which led to being selected as the opening act for the 1960 Denver Folk Festival, solidified this path for me,” said Phil.

It was that same year that Phil entered the Air Force. Following electronics school in Denver, Phil was assigned to a California Air Force Base where he worked on a version of a Falcon air-to-air missile, and later moved to Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Northern Michigan where he was a missile guidance system technician.

During his military tenure, there were large annual talent contests. “Each year, I made the worldwide competition and in my fourth year I played the guitar and sang, and beat out over 70,000 other people. It was always interesting and fun, and I met many famous and talented people.”

It was Phil’s earlier experiences in Denver and in the military that made him realize that once he retired from the Air Force, his calling would be in the music industry. Today, as Choir Director at his local church, Phil still pursues music with that same passion; however, his music journey has not always been without detours.

Fast forward to October 2014, Phil suspected something was wrong when he began to experience extreme pain when he urinated. After visiting the VA hospital for a series of tests, physicians determined that he had bladder cancer.

About three to four times more common in men than women, bladder cancer is the fourth most common cancer in American men – about 79,000 new cases of bladder cancer will be diagnosed in the US in 2017.

The VA recommended Phil see a bladder cancer specialist who recommended that he have his bladder removed because the recurrence rate of bladder cancer is high. Following surgery, Phil was diagnosed with a more advanced form of cancer that had already spread beyond the bladder to other parts of the body. Phil’s doctor also suggested chemotherapy and then a new Immuno-Oncology therapy. Immuno-Oncology is a new way of approaching cancer treatment that helps a person’s own immune

system detect and attack mutating cancer cells that previously evaded the body’s defenses.

During Bladder Cancer Awareness Month in May and Men’s Health Month in June, Phil is sharing his experience with others to raise awareness about how to recognize the signs and symptoms of the disease.

“Like many people with bladder cancer, my symptoms were not recognized as signs of bladder cancer and by the time I was diagnosed my disease was already very advanced. If you think something might be wrong, don’t be afraid to talk to your doctor,” Phil adds. “And if you are diagnosed, know that there are options to treat bladder cancer.”

The earlier bladder cancer is found and the more information patients have about their type of cancer, the better. Today, treatments are being created that utilize specific information about a patient’s genetic makeup which helps physicians more easily understand which therapies may benefit the right patient at the right time.

According to the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network, because the most common symptoms of bladder cancer may also be indicators of other medical conditions, many people are unaware that bladder cancer is manifesting and the diagnosis is often delayed.¹

Signs and symptoms include:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| ✓ a weak urine stream | ✓ feeling tired or weak |
| ✓ blood in the urine | ✓ swelling in the feet |
| ✓ pain or burning during urination | ✓ back or pelvic pain |
| ✓ frequent urination | ✓ bone pain |
| ✓ sense of urgency to urinate even when the bladder is not full | ✓ loss of appetite and weight |

Following treatment with an Immuno-Oncology therapy, Phil continues to follow his life-long music passion as choir director for his local church while remaining hopeful. “Today, I feel very good. I don’t have full strength yet and I cannot hit a golf ball very far anymore, but I can still sing. If you can remain active, as I have been able to, and keep being a member of a community, that makes all the difference in the world.”

Phil added, “I’ve had great support from everyone—my wife, my children and my doctors. When living through an experience like this, it helps if you’re centered. And you need an oncologist you can work with who has the right message for you and the right manner that makes you feel comfortable.”

If you’re living with advanced bladder cancer or newly diagnosed, talk to your doctor about what treatment and testing options are appropriate for your type of cancer. To hear more about Phil’s journey, and to learn about bladder cancer and its signs and symptoms, visit: www.astrazeneca-us.com/phil.html

¹Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network. <http://www.bcan.org/facts/>
3335503 Last Updated 4/17

Kissinger: If not for the GI Bill, I might have become a partner in an accounting firm, which is what I was studying before I was drafted.

What might have become of the United States if not for the GI Bill?

Kissinger: America without the GI Bill might have become a very divided country. Millions of people would have had to find an occupation and an education, above all, on their own. And the consciousness that the country was taking care of us was such an important element. In my case, I know that when I left the service, I could go to college and never have to think five minutes about how I was going to pay for it.

The war involved America in the world. But the fact that our people could educate themselves about the necessities of great power existence was an important element. Before the war, we were essentially an isolationist country. After the war, we became more and more involved in world affairs as we developed an educated citizenry that shaped that relationship.

Greenberg: There is no question what (the GI Bill) did to transition from the war to civilian life and to the economy as a whole. It changed America, really, over a period of a few years. You had this influx of people ... coming back, going to school, getting married, raising families. It made the transition possible. It made the growth of the economy

possible. It provided fuel for the economy. And it worked better than anybody thought it would work.

Why hasn't it been copied? We should. What about the vets coming home today? Why shouldn't they have that benefit? Who deserves it more? I think we owe the current group of veterans more than they are getting.

Clearly, many Americans – men and women who served in the military forces during World War II – were eligible for the GI Bill to further their education in one way or another. Like all students, you had to meet certain standards and maintain them, but it opened the door and was an opportunity for millions who otherwise would never have thought of pursuing higher education. Following their education, new economic opportunities presented themselves – better jobs with a brighter future than they would have had to look forward to. It also prepared them to start businesses of their own following their college education, and it was easier for them to raise money to start a new business. It made a generation of Americans more confident in themselves to achieve economic success and changed the economic growth of the United States. Better-educated Americans became a catalyst for economic growth in the country that would never have taken place. 🌿

Jeff Stoffer is editor of The American Legion Magazine

Levittown and the birth of suburbia



Truck supervisor Bernard Levey and his family proudly pose in front of their new home in Levittown, N.Y., in 1950. Getty Images

At the peak of construction in 1948, 36 homes were started and finished in one day. In all, between 1947 and 1951, 17,447 houses arose from the Island Trees pastureland, later renamed Levittown, N.Y., to accommodate the surge of World War II veterans using their GI Bill benefits to restart their lives. The average age of a Levittown home buyer at the time was 23.

"Within 48 hours, you could go from a cement slab to a house you could move into," says Paul Manton, president of the Levittown Historical Society, which operates a museum to honor America's prototypical subdivision inside the Levittown Memorial Education Center. In 1950, a *Time* magazine cover story put it this way: "For Sale: a new way of life."

The first homes, which sold for \$7,900 each, came with Bendix washing

machines and General Electric refrigerators and ranges. The 1950 models had built-in Admiral televisions. "It was about transition, from radio to TV, from traditional culture to pop culture," Manton says.

Brothers Alfred and William Levitt, a Navy Seabee during World War II, masterminded the project. They had landed a contract to build row houses for shipbuilders in Norfolk, Va., and employed assembly-line mass-production processes to meet the Navy's needs. They would later develop subdivisions in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland and Puerto Rico to meet massive postwar housing demand.

The Levittown Historical Society Museum is open Wednesday afternoons and Friday evenings, free of admission.

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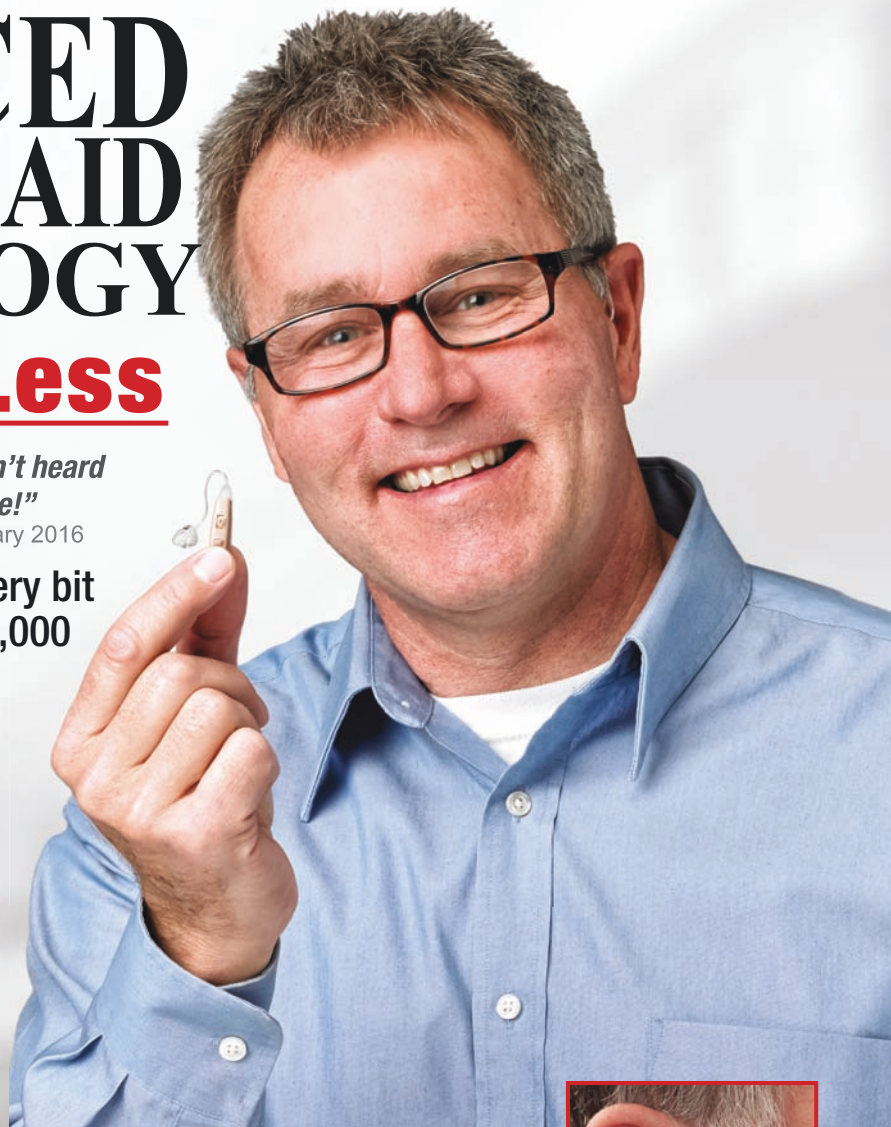
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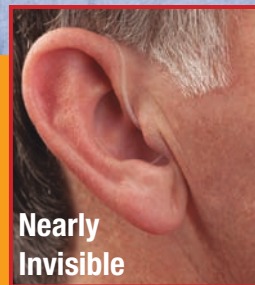


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GI Bill remains a work in progress today

Historians David Whitman and Suzanne Mettler have studied the GI Bill and the way in which it has been used – and, in some instances, abused – since its passage in 1944. Some issues in the administration of benefits have proven cyclical over the decades, they explained at a roundtable discussion recently hosted by The American Legion's Veterans Employment & Education Division in Washington.

"Many lawmakers make a big mistake in thinking that today's veterans' issues are something new under the sun," Whitman said. "To a surprising degree, policymakers struggle today with many of the same issues in designing educational benefits for veterans that Congress and (VA) struggled with after World War II."

Mettler said the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 transformed postwar America by providing multiple opportunities for veterans. They in turn emerged as civic and political leaders in communities nationwide. Those opportunities and effects, however, have occasionally given rise to abuse.

"Through the GI Bill, American society recognizes the immense sacrifices that those in the armed forces make on behalf of the nation, and aims to provide veterans with assistance in readjusting to civilian life," Mettler said. "So that the law's purpose can be realized, lawmakers need to ensure that veterans and taxpayers are not taken advantage of by those who find business opportunities in the federal dollars provided by the GI Bill."

Whitman said two patterns stand out. First, there are the myths, or perhaps misconceptions, about the GI Bill. Second is the cyclical nature of controversies over education benefits for servicemembers.

"Ever since the first GI Bill, a pattern has repeated itself," Mettler said. "The federal government makes new funds available for education, and actors in the proprietary sector find ways to take advantage of them, and problems of fraud and abuse ensue. Eventually scandals emerge, and the media exposes them. In time, lawmakers come together across the aisle to create reforms so that such problems are alleviated or scaled back. Then the cycle repeats itself."

The original GI Bill, according to Whitman, sent millions of

former GIs to college, but what is less known is that many more World War II veterans used their benefits to attend private trade schools, some of which were ineffective.

"Proprietary schools, or for-profit trade schools, opened at an astonishing rate in response to the new government provision of tuition payments for GIs," Whitman said. "In one 18-month stint after the war, four proprietary schools a day opened in the United States. Unfortunately, many of the new trade schools used deceptive advertising, made misleading promises to GIs about future careers and job placement, and engaged in a variety of fraudulent practices that bilked the government out of taxpayer dollars and wasted veterans' educational benefits."

As was the case for the original GI Bill, the post-9/11 version has produced its own investigations of predatory practices by schools that did not put purpose ahead of profit.

"Most recently, the Post-9/11 GI Bill was a marvelous legislative accomplishment, but its implementation has been partially marred by schools in the proprietary sector," Mettler said. "The issue is not genuinely ideological. The question is simply: who will stand up first and foremost for veterans? The American public, across party lines, supports aid to veterans. Lawmakers would do well to find common ground on this issue and to seek reform."

"Currently, one in four students using the Post-9/11 GI Bill attends proprietary schools, many of which have poor records in serving students," Mettler added. "If these problems are not addressed, they may eventually endanger the entire law. The Legion's voice needs to be heard, both in Washington, D.C., and throughout the country, with members communicating their concerns to their senators and representatives. The record of the proprietary sector ... should be of utmost concern."

The GI Bill and its versions over the decades have always been a work in progress, ever in need of adjustments and oversight, which The American Legion has consistently provided.

"The Legion has played an important role in the development of every GI Bill," Whitman said. "That's a testament to the Legion's recognition that education is the most surefire way for veterans to better their lives and advance their careers."

– Johnathon Clinkscales

The American Legion works continuously to improve and protect the GI Bill.

Today, the Legion's Veterans Employment & Education Commission, National Security Commission and service officers, for example, are working to strengthen:

■ **Protections for students whose colleges close.** For-profit school closures, such as ITT Technical Institute and Westech College in California, cost credits and GI Bill benefits for veterans. The American Legion supports H.R. 1216, the Protecting Veterans From School Closures Act of 2017.

■ **GI Bill funding for business startups.** The American Legion supports, by resolution, expansion of GI Bill benefits to provide startup capital for veteran-owned businesses. The 1944 GI Bill helped fund hundreds of thousands of farms and businesses, and post-9/11 veterans are statistically proving to be successful entrepreneurs when given the opportunity.

■ **Discharge review.** The American Legion provides staff experts to assist those who dispute the definitions of their discharges or wish to correct military records. Discharge review was introduced in the 1944 GI Bill, and American Legion representation has long been provided, under the National Security Commission's leadership.

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AMERICA'S INWARD TURN



'Nation-building at home' and 'America first' are nice catchphrases, but a great power can't neglect foreign policy.

BY ALAN W. DOWD

As world war gave way to cold war, Americans came to the realization that “security was something that had to be worked at, to be managed,” historian Derek Leebaert writes in “The Fifty-Year Wound.” “Americans could not turn their backs on the world.”

So Cold War-era presidents forged a broad consensus about America's place and purpose in the world: to build a liberal international order in which the United States could flourish, to engage the world and lead the West, to guard the frontiers of freedom and contain the Soviet empire.

But a quarter-century after the collapse of the Soviet Union – and after 16 years of waging war on terrorism – that consensus has frayed. According to Pew polling, 57 percent of Americans want the United States to deal with its own problems and “let other countries get along the best they can on their own” – up from 30 percent in 2002.

Many political leaders seem to share the public's view that it's time for the United States to take a much-deserved break. The Obama administration, for instance, employed phrases such as “leading from behind” and “nation-building here at home” to explain its stand-off foreign policy, which included withdrawal from Iraq, drawdowns in Afghanistan, “time-limited” operations in Libya, unenforced “red lines” in Syria and steep defense cuts.

The 2016 presidential election revealed that the nation-building-at-home caucus represents a sizable swath of the political spectrum. In a surprising echo of President Barack Obama, President Donald Trump declared that “we have to build our own nation” and embraced the historically fraught “America First” label. He even described “trying to topple various people” – we can infer he was talking about Saddam Hussein – as “a tremendous disservice ... to humanity.”

Obama's rationale for disengagement was based on an optimistic belief that the trajectory of history leads inevitably to a better world. That's what he meant when he talked about the “arc of history” or consigned a regime to “the wrong side of history.” It's a quintessentially American view. As the

Brookings Institution's Robert Kagan observes, “Americans, Europeans and other children of the Enlightenment tend to believe history has a direction, progressively upward.”

Perhaps that's why Obama seemed unconcerned about the U.S. stabilization force withdrawing from Iraq, Russia dismembering a sovereign Ukraine, or sequestration shrinking America's reach and role. No worries, as people say. Obama's half of the nation-building-at-home caucus seems to believe history is on the side of progress, regardless of how engaged or disengaged the United States happens to be. Trump's half seems to believe the world is a mess and won't get any better, regardless of what America does or doesn't do.

GREAT POWER, GREAT PROBLEMS If only these conclusions held true. If only the United States could take a vacation from foreign policy. If only our security didn't need to be “worked at.” But it does. History teaches that securing U.S. interests doesn't happen without effort, that international stability is one of those interests, and that when liberal powers fail to promote a liberal international order the “arc of history” bends toward darkness – or chaos.

For a great power like the United States, national security and foreign policy are not programs that can be automated or outsourced. Rather, they are problems that must be constantly managed. Consider the century-plus that America has been a power-projecting nation.

The Spanish Empire posed a national-security problem, and its brutal treatment of Cuba sparked outrage in the United States. So, for strategic and humanitarian reasons, America went to war with Spain. No sooner had Washington solved the problem created by Spain's crumbling empire than it faced the problem of administering Cuba, pacifying the Philippines and defending far-flung possessions from Puerto Rico to the Pacific.

As U.S. interests grew, President Theodore Roosevelt recognized that the United States needed a hub for operations in the Pacific Ocean. A naval base in Hawaii solved that problem; by the end of

Roosevelt's presidency, large sums were being allocated for readying Pearl Harbor to host a fleet of warships. That solution, of course, would present its own set of problems – and a tempting target – 33 years later.

President Woodrow Wilson's solution, initially, to the foreign-policy problem of war in Europe was neutrality, which only deferred the problem to a later date. Wilson's next solution was the very opposite: a world body to enforce peace, a promise to make the world safe for democracy, an endorsement of self-determination. These well-intentioned solutions created as many problems as they solved.

The United States' postwar turn inward aimed at insulating the nation from Europe's problems, but it only allowed those problems to metastasize.

Appeasing Japan directly (after its warplanes bombed USS *Panay* without provocation in 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt failed to respond) and Germany indirectly (after Munich, he sent Neville Chamberlain a telegram that read "Good man") may have addressed the problem of going to war in the 1930s, but it did nothing to address the problem posed by predator regimes.

During World War II, Washington armed Stalin in order to defeat Hitler. It worked, but it also positioned the Soviet Union to emerge from the war a superpower. Thus, with fascist totalitarianism defeated, a new problem emerged: communist totalitarianism.

The ensuing Cold War with Moscow was a series of crisis-management episodes:

- The division of Germany was supposed to be a solution, but it proved to be a flash point for war and a lasting problem – one that required Washington's constant engagement.

- Dean Acheson's "defensive perimeter" in the Pacific set out to solve a foreign-policy problem but created a national-security problem, since the communist bloc saw it as a green light in Korea. President Harry Truman's response preserved South Korea, but 67 years later, Washington still wrestles with the problem of North Korea.

- The deal to end the Cuban Missile Crisis prevented the Cold War from turning hot, but it undercut the Monroe Doctrine and countenanced Soviet bases in Cuba.

- Pursuing détente and cutting defense spending after Vietnam was supposed to solve the problem of superpower hostility, but it gave Moscow a window of opportunity to expand its empire.

- The opening to China drove a wedge into the communist bloc but also opened the door to a

formidable economic-military rival in Beijing – and perhaps Cold War 2.0.

- Arming the mujahedeen addressed the problem of Soviet expansion into Southwest Asia, but it turned Afghanistan into a vacuum that was ultimately filled by the Taliban.

- The collapse of the Soviet Union and its global empire – a towering bipartisan foreign-policy achievement – led to numerous foreign-policy problems: loose nukes, unstable borders, reawakened ethnic rivalries and wars, the re-emergence of tribalism, the rise of terrorism.

The problem of foreign policy continued after the Cold War. NATO expansion calmed Eastern Europe's anxieties but heightened Moscow's.

Desert Storm prevented Iraq from controlling much of the world's oil. But U.S. troops would have to stay behind to protect Saudi Arabia from Iraq. That decision would lead Osama bin Laden to wage a global guerrilla war against America – a war plotted from a safe haven provided by the Taliban.

By invading Iraq, President George W. Bush aimed to prevent Saddam from using his WMDs, remove a recurrent threat to U.S. interests and plant democracy in the Middle East. But the invasion revealed only the skeleton of a WMD program, had the effect of removing the lid that kept Iraq's sectarian cauldron from boiling over, allowed Iran to expand its influence and led to America's bloodiest war since Vietnam.

By withdrawing from Iraq, erasing his "red line" in Syria and resisting calls for no-fly zones to weaken Bashar Assad, Obama aimed to address the political problem of America's world-weariness. But pulling back from the Middle East triggered a cascade of problems: the rise of ISIS, an unchecked civil war that has claimed 470,000 lives and spawned 4 million refugees, the expansion of Russia's influence and, ironically, Assad's use of WMDs.

PROBLEMS AND ALTERNATIVES The purpose of this recap is not to suggest that all of those solutions were wrong. Many of them made sense at the time they were applied. Nor is it to succumb to fatalism and suggest that bad things happen no matter what course Washington takes. Indeed, after absorbing these causes and effects, it's tempting to conclude that it's better for America to stay out of the world's problems altogether. But the past hundred years counsel otherwise – that disengagement allows those problems to worsen and ultimately threaten U.S. interests.

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Rather, the purpose here is to underscore that foreign policy and national security have to be “worked at.” The American people cannot take a vacation from the world like they did during the interwar years, outsource national security like certain European countries, or treat foreign policy like some set-it-and-forget-it machine that requires minimal maintenance.

For America, foreign policy and national security are like tending a vast farmland: they require constant attention. The work is hard and ongoing. Solving one problem often leads to another. And even when the farmer does what needs to be done, when it needs to be done, where it needs to be done, problems can still crop up – unexpected and unpredictable problems, which is why constant attention is so important. It’s the best way to prevent manageable problems from mushrooming into unmanageable crises.

Put another way, ever since 1941, America has conducted a forward-leaning foreign policy – and maintained a military with global reach and global presence – not to look for problems, but to address problems before they explode.

Offering an alternative to the nation-building-at-home caucus doesn’t mean trying to make the world “safe for democracy,” as Wilson declared in 1917, or “ending tyranny in our world,” as Bush declared in 2005. It means having the resources to ensure that America’s democracy can deter the world’s tyrannies (sequestration erased those resources). It means maintaining hard-earned gains by remaining engaged (Obama’s withdrawal from Iraq jeopardized those gains, as does Trump’s suggestion that he would come to the defense of NATO members under attack – an ironclad requirement of the North Atlantic Treaty – only if they had “fulfilled their obligations to us”). It means reminding ourselves that the United States is a force for good in the world (the political rhetoric sometimes suggests otherwise). It means leading the alliance system America built (Obama’s stand-off approach to Libya fell short, as does Trump’s pronouncement that NATO is obsolete).

The defense that Trump and Obama are merely reflecting the world-weariness of an inward-looking electorate may be accurate. However, leadership – especially on matters of national security – is often about persuading the American people to follow a path they would rather not take.

Think about Jefferson abandoning a policy of appeasement and instead waging war on piracy half a world away, and Lincoln transforming the

Civil War from a struggle merely to preserve the Union into a struggle to abolish slavery. Consider FDR dragging America back onto the world stage, Truman arguing for open-ended engagement and global containment of Moscow, Reagan reviving the nation’s flagging commitment to what Truman began, the elder Bush building support for Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Clinton wading into the Balkans, and the younger Bush defending the surge.

NO RETIREMENT If the American people want the benefits of a liberal international order that sustains the American way of life, they need to sustain the international order. It doesn’t run on autopilot or grow by magic. It depends on the United States projecting power into the global commons, deterring aggressive states, enforcing international norms of behavior and serving as civilization’s last line of defense. As Anders Fogh Rasmussen, former secretary-general of NATO puts it, “Superpowers don’t get to retire.”

For seven-plus decades, U.S. engagement has prevented great-power wars – the norm between 1745 and 1945. Not coincidentally, U.S. forces have been in Europe since 1944, Japan since 1945, the Persian Gulf since 1948, South Korea since 1950. Today, those who remember Moscow’s concrete walls and iron curtains want America’s help keeping Europe whole and free. And those who fear Beijing’s rise want America’s help keeping the Pacific, well, pacific.

This isn’t charity work or a “bad deal,” to borrow a phrase. In fact, it’s the very opposite. Forging an open trading system connected by open sea lanes, transforming Europe from an incubator of world wars into a partnership of prosperity, planting and nurturing democracies in Europe and Asia, maintaining a stable Asia-Pacific, building a network of alliances – all these are in the national interest. Consider the findings of a RAND study: “A 50 percent retrenchment in U.S. overseas security commitments could reduce U.S. bilateral trade in goods and services annually by as much as \$577 billion ... The resulting annual decline in U.S. gross domestic product would be \$490 billion.”

In short, it’s difficult to see how the United States can prosper in the 21st century by focusing solely on “nation-building here at home,” or by waving the “America First” banner. 🌿

Alan W. Dowd is a senior fellow with the Sagamore Institute Center for American Purpose.

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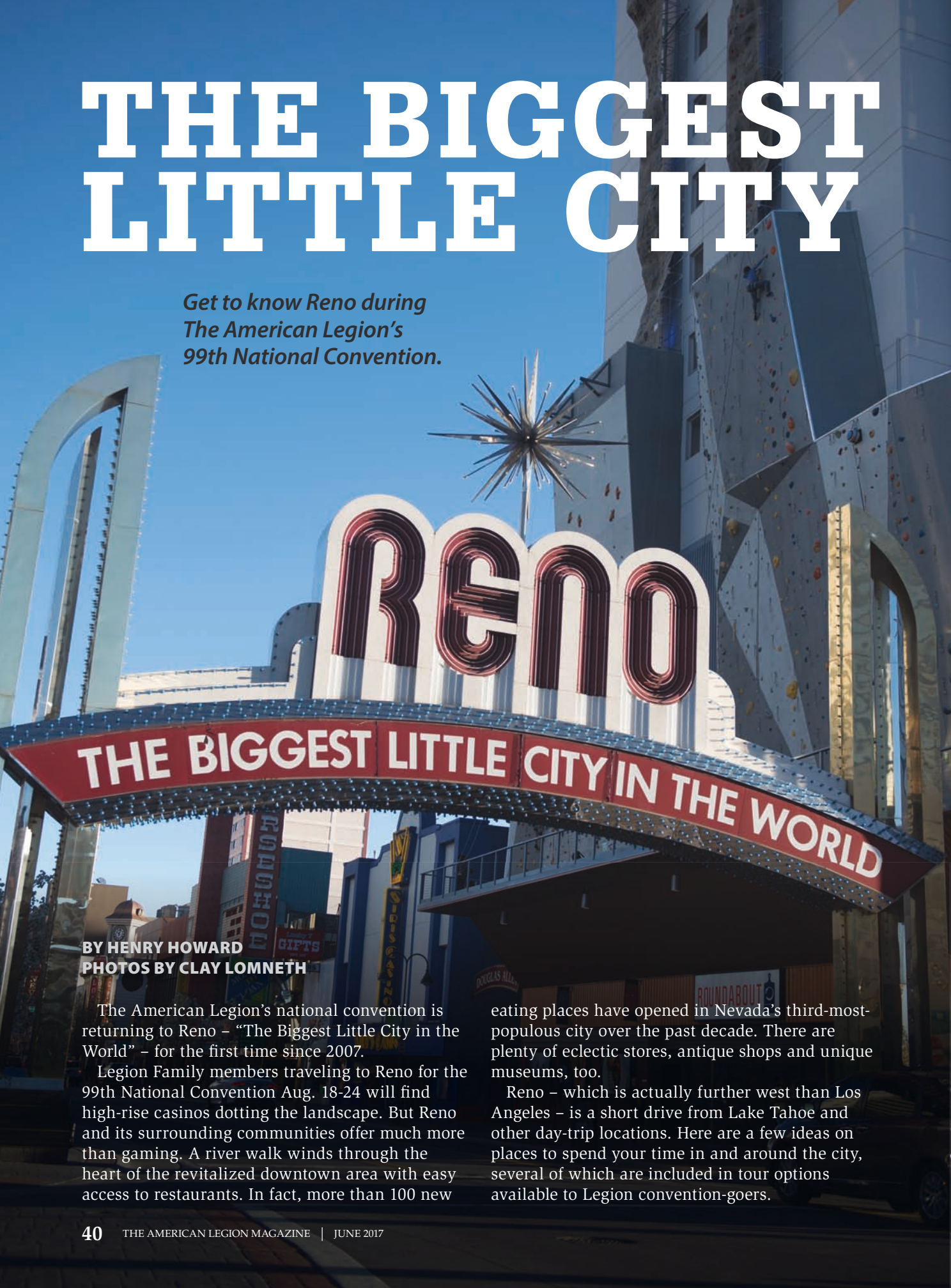
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THE BIGGEST LITTLE CITY

*Get to know Reno during
The American Legion's
99th National Convention.*



RENO
THE BIGGEST LITTLE CITY IN THE WORLD

**BY HENRY HOWARD
PHOTOS BY CLAY LOMNETH**

The American Legion's national convention is returning to Reno – “The Biggest Little City in the World” – for the first time since 2007.

Legion Family members traveling to Reno for the 99th National Convention Aug. 18-24 will find high-rise casinos dotting the landscape. But Reno and its surrounding communities offer much more than gaming. A river walk winds through the heart of the revitalized downtown area with easy access to restaurants. In fact, more than 100 new

eating places have opened in Nevada's third-most-populous city over the past decade. There are plenty of eclectic stores, antique shops and unique museums, too.

Reno – which is actually further west than Los Angeles – is a short drive from Lake Tahoe and other day-trip locations. Here are a few ideas on places to spend your time in and around the city, several of which are included in tour options available to Legion convention-goers.



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THINGS TO DO IN RENO

The National Automobile Museum The museum displays more than 200 cars, some of which were once owned by entertainment icons such as Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, John Wayne, James Dean and Sammy Davis Jr.

 www.automuseum.org

National Bowling Stadium The 89-lane bowling center is a venue for professional bowling tournaments, as well as the spot where the movie “Kingpin” was filmed. The first floor is a museum, open to the public. Individual bowling isn’t offered, but groups can make reservations.

 www.gobowlreno.com/about/stadium

The Outlets at Sparks Located in Sparks, a city adjacent to Reno, the outdoor outlet mall is home to major brands in apparel, sporting goods and entertainment, as well as restaurants and an IMAX theater. Among the highlights is Scheels, a sporting goods store with an indoor Ferris wheel and two-lane rollerball (miniature bowling) alley.

 www.outletsatsparks.com

DAY TRIPS

Lake Tahoe The northern tip of Lake Tahoe is about a 50-minute drive from Reno. Considered by many the most scenic drive in America, the 72-mile route around Lake Tahoe offers breathtaking views of serene waters and majestic mountains. There are plenty of roadside scenic outlooks and hiking trails, and opportunities for cruises and paddlewheeling.

 www.visitinglaketahoe.com

Truckee, Calif. A 45-minute drive from Reno, Truckee’s quaint Main Street – Donner Pass Road – is home to locally owned restaurants, gift shops, boutiques and other small businesses. Nearby is the Emigrant Trail Museum, which tells the stories of people who lived and traveled through the Sierra Nevada region, including Native Americans, builders of the Transcontinental Railroad and the ill-fated Donner Party.

 www.townoftruckee.com/visiting

Virginia City, Nev. In its heyday, Virginia City – a 30-minute drive up curvy, mountainous roads – was the largest city between Denver and San Francisco. The miners are long gone, but visitors can take in a ghost tour or check out more than 50 boardwalk restaurants and shops selling leather goods, Western wear, collectibles and jewelry. (Note: the rolling boardwalk can be a challenge to those who require assistance walking.)

 www.visitvirginiacitynv.com

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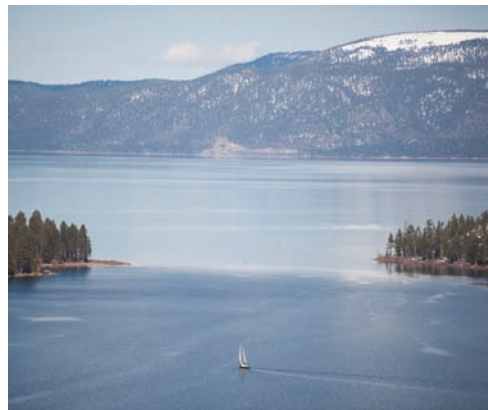
Basque food Originating in the region bordering France and Spain, this type of dining has taken hold in Reno. It’s family-style dining, where guests order their entrées and share the sides – French fries, salad, beans and a scoop of ice cream for dessert – with others at a long table. Louis’ Basque Corner is the most popular in Reno.  louisbasquecorner.com

Cheers! Reno has a growing number of craft brews and distilleries, some of which offer tours. Check **RenoBrewMap.com** for an interactive map listing locations, hours of service and more. 

Henry Howard is deputy director of media and communications for The American Legion.



Museum at the National Bowling Stadium



Lake Tahoe



Virginia City, Nev.



Louis’ Basque Corner

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NATIONAL CONVENTION TOURS

Destination Tahoe Meetings & Events is offering several tours during the Legion's 99th National Convention in Reno. Legionnaires and their families are encouraged to take advantage of these different tour options, listed here with dates and per-person prices:

Historic Virginia City (\$42) – Aug. 18, 21, 24

Relive the Old West and be a pioneer for a day at historic Virginia City, once the richest place on earth. You will have time to explore on your own, and you have the option of a narrated trolley ride or a mine tour.



Truckee, Calif.

Historic Donner-Truckee (\$44) – Aug. 18, 22

The Donner-Truckee area is rich in pioneer lore. This was the route of westward-bound emigrants who struggled with their wagons over the rugged Sierra Nevada mountain passes. This tour includes a visit to Donner Memorial Historic Park and the Emigrant Trail Museum; it was here, during the winter of 1846-1847, that members of the Donner Party played out their tragic rendezvous with destiny.

Shopping shuttle (\$34) – Aug. 19, 21

Continuous shuttles will give you a chance to enjoy Reno's top shopping centers: Meadowood Mall and, a little further south, The Summit.

Paddlewheel Dinner Dance Cruise

(\$148) – Aug. 19, 21

Sightsee from all three decks of *M.S. Dixie II*, the largest and most sophisticated paddlewheeler ever to cruise Lake Tahoe. Along with impressive views of the lake, surrounding mountains, Emerald Bay and Vikingsholm Castle, guests will enjoy a plated three-course dinner, dancing and live music.

Paddlewheel Cruise With Lunch (\$111) – Aug. 20, 23

M.S. Dixie II will depart from the pier and begin a leisurely cruise along Tahoe's southern shoreline as the towering mountains above Stateline come into full view. Buffet lunch is included.

Lake Tahoe Excursion With Scenic Gondola

(\$138) – Aug. 25

Enjoy a full day experiencing the best of what Tahoe has to offer. Stops include:

- *Vista Point*, a granite-tree-lined-scenic overlook with great photo opportunities.
- *Zephyr Cove Resort*, with tree-lined beaches, marina and lodge restaurant.
- *Heavenly Gondola*. Guests will ride up the mountain, disembarking at the observation deck at just over 9,000 feet. There they can take in 180-degree views of Lake Tahoe and the surrounding mountains. Continuing on the gondola to the top of the mountain, guests will have time to explore Heavenly Adventure Peak.
- *Heavenly Village*, which is full of shops, eateries and live music for guests to explore on their own.

Reno City Tour History on Tap

(\$70) – Aug. 19

This city tour will provide a bit of history on "The Biggest Little City in the World," including a stop at the famous Reno Arch and some time in Wingfield Park along the Truckee River to view the "whispering giant" and beautiful rose gardens. You will get a taste of Reno's growing craft beer scene at The Depot, a historical train station built to be the headquarters of the Nevada-California-Oregon Railway in 1910 and now beautifully restored into Nevada's first combined brewery and distillery. The final stop is the National Automobile Museum, which has more than 200 vehicles – from the 1890s to the present day – on display.

Tour registration is open online. Attendees can also register on site at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center. www.legion.org/convention/resources



Learn more about Reno, including climate and altitude, popular venues for gathering and tips for getting around.

www.legion.org/convention/reno

There is no shortage of fun in Reno: golfing, shopping, gaming, hiking, fishing, canoeing and more. Visit the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority website for details. www.visitrenotahoe.com

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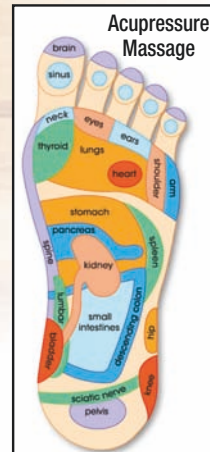
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Benefit or Burden?

VA home loans are soaring, but for active-duty borrowers it may be best to wait.

BY DOUGLAS P. McCORMICK

VA loan volume surged in the first quarter of this fiscal year to more than 230,000 loans originated, representing nearly \$60 billion in loan value.

This impressive growth is on top of a record year in 2016, in which VA backed more than 700,000 veteran home loans valued at over \$175 billion – a 17 percent increase in aggregate loan value over 2015. VA has supported more than 3 million veteran home purchases in the past five years, resulting in a homeownership rate of 80 percent for veterans compared to

63 percent for the rest of the United States. While this important program has facilitated the American dream of homeownership for millions of veterans, it has also caused financial hardship for many active-duty servicemembers and jeopardized valuable financial flexibility needed to effectively navigate their transition to civilian life.

The original VA loan program was conceived in 1944 as part of a major veteran reintegration program following World War II. In its original construct, the benefit targeted veterans within

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two years of transition who had served during the war. Since that time, the program has grown significantly in both level of benefit and scope. The benefits of participating in the VA loan program are significant and include no required down payment or private mortgage insurance (PMI), no minimum credit score required by VA, lower interest rates than market-based mortgage products, and less restrictive borrowing standards that allow veterans to qualify for larger loans and more expensive houses (up to almost \$1.1 million in high-cost areas) than their civilian counterparts.

While supporting veteran reintegration through homeownership is a worthy cause, the success of this program has resulted in several significant unintended consequences for the active-duty service population. We have more active-duty servicemembers (who are required to move frequently) buying homes, resulting in more foreclosures or “underwater” situations in which they owe more than their houses are worth. Most importantly, too much exposure to illiquid real estate can impair the financial flexibility required to successfully navigate transition to a civilian career.

A study conducted by LMI found that almost 40 percent of active-duty soldiers owned their own homes, up from 27 percent in 1997. This ownership dynamic is even more pronounced among more senior active-duty leaders, with 63 percent of soldiers with a rank of E-7 and higher owning homes. High rates of homeownership among active servicemembers, and the fixed monthly payments associated with a mortgage, can contribute to financial distress during deployment to combat areas and frequent military relocation. On average, active-duty servicemembers move once every four years, which results in 600,000 moves annually among members of the U.S. Armed Forces. When deployed to combat or relocating often, owning a home can become a burden rather than an asset.

The 2013 FINRA Financial Capability Study’s Military Survey Report offers some daunting statistics regarding homeownership’s potential negative effect on financial security. Thirty percent of military homeowners reported making no down payment, 22 percent reported making late mortgage payments, 38 percent reported owing more on their home than it was worth, and 10 percent had been involved in a foreclosure. While some of the statistics may be

influenced by the mortgage crisis of 2007, homeownership for active military is likely to be a mediocre investment when considering hidden costs such as being an absentee landlord, VA funding fees, taxes, maintenance and brokerage fees. Solely from an investment perspective, active servicemembers are better off delaying the purchase of a home and allocating that capital to a diversified, low-cost investment portfolio that offers a greater expected return with more flexibility and liquidity.

However, the greatest problem with active-duty homeownership is not the investment merits, but the lack of flexibility it causes. Servicemembers have unique circumstances that impact their financial choices: 83 percent of veterans will make a mid-career transition, and approximately one-third of transitioning veterans take six months or longer to find employment after service. They are more likely to pursue additional education, more likely to have families and dependents, and less likely to have a well-established professional network at time of separation given frequent relocations while in service. All these factors increase the need for financial flexibility, and decrease the attractiveness of owning a long-term asset like a home and the fixed mortgage payments that come with it. Financial flexibility should be viewed as a critical asset that allows veterans the time required to find attractive employment by using their savings to support themselves and their families during transition.

The VA loan program is a great tool to help veterans transition after service, but it can be a liability for those who use it while on active duty. Veterans should maximize liquidity, financial flexibility and preserve their hard-earned VA loan benefit for after service, when they have the time and stability to take full advantage of this tremendous benefit. With a stable career, some contingency savings and a long-term plan, a home purchase with a VA loan – after transition to the civilian workforce – is not only a great source of enjoyment, but likely a good investment as well. 🌿

Douglas P. McCormick is a former Army infantry officer, Harvard Business School graduate and author of “Family Inc.: Using Business Principles to Maximize Your Family’s Wealth” (Wiley). He serves as chairman of Bunker Labs and a member of Team Red, White & Blue’s board of directors.

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Stop. Think. Connect.

VA, DHS offer tips for veterans to keep their personal information safe.

In our increasingly connected world, some aspects of our daily lives have become safer, more convenient and easier. Yet there is no shortage of stories about people who have had their personal information compromised online.

In fact, according to AARP, two-thirds of Americans who use the Internet received at least one potentially malicious email in 2013. As a veteran, whether you're managing your health care through VA, conducting banking online or just emailing loved ones, it's critical to think about how the information you share online is being used. Given that so many of us are constantly connected to the web, online safety can be a challenge.

VA and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) want to help veterans and their families protect themselves online. Let's go over what to do to keep your information safe from the start – and what to do if it's compromised.

UNDERSTANDING ONLINE RISKS According to the National Cyber Security Alliance, 58 percent of U.S. households are concerned about identity theft, and for good reason. While the federal government and responsible businesses are taking precautions to protect your personal information online, cybersecurity is a shared responsibility. We all have a role in protecting ourselves and each other.

A common way scammers may try to manipulate you is through scare tactics. You could receive a seemingly official



email from someone claiming to represent a legitimate business, suggesting that your personal information is at risk of being compromised. Such scams actually prey on your instinct to protect the very information they wish for you to divulge.

Often these messages will express, with urgency, that you need to click a given link or provide sensitive information right away to “confirm” your identity, in order to protect your

information. These scams (called “phishing”) are really trying to get your personal information for dishonest purposes. As veterans, be vigilant in protecting your information, as you may be phishing targets while transitioning into the civilian workforce or seeking your VA benefits.

STAYING SAFE As part of its larger cybersecurity mission, VA considers the protection of veterans' personal information one of its top priorities. VA employees are highly trained in handling sensitive information, and the agency employs a team of network security experts to monitor and safeguard its systems and databases through its More Than a Number campaign.

Another part of VA's mission is to educate veterans and their families about dealing with online security threats. With that in mind, some important rules from both DHS and VA should be followed to keep you safe.

INTERNET continued on **page 52**

DEFENSE

USS Gerald R. Ford, by the numbers

1,106

The aircraft carrier's length, in feet

100,000

Weight, in tons

4,660

Sailors and Marines

75

Aircraft complement

\$12.9 billion

Total cost

200,000

Gallons of paint Source: Daily Mail



DVIDS

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Bobby S.

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INTERNET continued from page 50

■ **Clean your machine.** Update the security software on all your devices: computers, mobile devices and tablets. Having the latest security software, web browser and operating system is the best defense against viruses and other threats. Outdated software is often the way criminals gain access to your device and personal information. Visit manufacturers' websites for your devices and software to learn more.

■ **Update your passwords.** Change the passwords on your most sensitive accounts, such as bank and credit cards. Use a password with eight characters or more and a combination of upper and lowercase letters, numbers and symbols.

■ **Enable two-factor authentication.** Two-factor identification means you are able to access a system online by using a combination of information that only you could have. An example would be your bank's website asking for your password and a numeric code that is automatically sent to your mobile device when you try to log in. In this instance, a cybercriminal who has your username and password would still be unable to access your account because he wouldn't have the numeric passcode texted to your cell phone. Call customer service or visit the websites of your various accounts to learn how to enable this feature. The White House's "Lock Down Your Login" campaign, www.lockdownyourlogin.com, provides information about stronger authentications.

■ **Stop and consider.** Take a moment to evaluate whether or not any request for information comes from a valid source. Just as you would not open a door before being sure who is on the other side, always be suspicious of unfamiliar email requests or links.

■ **Seek assistance.** Don't guess. If you're ever uncertain about the origin of a message or request, contact the help desk of the system you're attempting to use or the initiating party to find out if the request is legitimate.

■ **Don't forward.** Never forward a suspicious email to anyone. Treat a suspicious email as you would a suspicious package: leave it where it is and ask security experts. Go to www.va.gov/identitytheft for more guidance.

■ **When in doubt, throw it out.** Delete any online communications (i.e., texts, emails, social media posts) that look suspicious, even if you think you know the source.

Even if you've taken every precaution and something does happen, help is available. VA's More Than a Number campaign is an online resource if your information has been compromised. Call 1-855-578-5492 or go to www.va.org/identitytheft. Also, the Federal Trade Commission maintains identitytheft.gov, the U.S. government's resource for those who have experienced identity theft. Here, you can report and recover from identity theft through a personalized program that will even create pre-filled letters and forms to send to credit bureaus, businesses and debt collectors.

While online threats are ever-present, it's never too late to start taking simple steps to help protect yourself and your loved ones.

DHS' Stop.Think.Connect. is a national cybersecurity awareness effort by a network of more than 350 government, academic and nonprofit partners committed to educating others about safer online practices.

 www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect

DEFENSE

Coast Guard move to DoD?

Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., is calling for the Coast Guard to be shifted from the Department of Homeland Security to the Defense Department, *The Hill* reports.

"Over time, the Coast Guard's mission importance has not been properly recognized or advocated for – as demonstrated by years of underfunded budget requests, and perhaps most clearly by this year's grossly inadequate proposed Office of Management and Budget funding guidance," Hunter wrote in a letter to President Trump, after reports emerged that the administration was considering a 14 percent cut in the Coast Guard's budget.

"The Coast Guard is a military force," Hunter added. "It deserves to be housed in a department that recognizes the importance of its mission, and has the capabilities to properly advocate for greatly needed resources."



Petty Officer 3rd Class Steve Scheren, a rescue swimmer from Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City, N.C., is hoisted into an MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter during hoist training in the Pasquotank River. U.S. Coast Guard photo

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TOP: The Patrouille de France's jets fly over the Liberty Memorial. Photo by Rita Clark

LEFT: A boy in the crowd dressed in World War I period uniform. Photo by Rita Clark

ABOVE: American Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt delivers remarks. Photo by Brian Rice

HONOR & REMEMBRANCE

'They served each other'

Thousands gathered at the National World War I Museum & Memorial in Kansas City, Mo., on April 6 for "In Sacrifice for Liberty and Peace," a fusion of live performance and film illustrating the nation's decision to go to war – and the price it paid.

During the ceremony's prelude, American Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt told the crowd that returning veterans felt a great responsibility to the nation and their comrades in arms. Nearly 700,000 joined the Legion, founded in Paris in March 1919. Their generation created the Veterans Administration, drafted what became the U.S. Flag Code and wrote the GI Bill.

"They served their communities, states and nation," Schmidt said. "Foremost, they served each other ... They assumed, correctly, that they would be the arbiters of American patriotism, pride and remembrance. And, as they did in the war, they stuck together."

Broadcast on screens outside the Liberty Memorial and streamed live online, the ceremony opened with a flyover from the Patrouille de France, the French Air Force's aerobatic team. Eight jets soared overhead, leaving red, white and blue contrails. The crowd cheered, then stood to sing the national anthem, led by baritone John Brancy and the 1st Infantry Division Band.

Through the reading of passages from American writings a century ago, complemented by period photos and video, the program outlined step by perilous step how a reluctant United States was drawn into Europe's conflict – not for America's own survival, but for the survival of the ideas of freedom and democracy.

After narrators related President Woodrow Wilson's request to Congress to declare war, the audience stood for a tolling of the bell and cannon fire from Delta Battery, 1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery Regiment.

"We didn't want speaker after speaker coming to the podium to wax eloquent about World War I," said Robert Dalessandro, chairman of the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission. "We wanted to expose you to the words of people of that period ... so you understood how they felt. We wanted you to look at the war through the lens of the period and not the 21st century."

Those who attended the event were moved and likely challenged, too, said John Monahan, The American Legion's representative on the centennial commission.

"From the Legion perspective, I believe the ceremony offered a better understanding of the spirit that motivated our founders – the spirit of sacrifice, of brotherhood, of working together toward a common goal," he said. "The centennial is an opportunity to revisit, rethink and rededicate ourselves to those ideals."

– Matt Grills

Watch "In Sacrifice for Liberty and Peace" online:

www.ww1cc.org/sacrifice-about.html

LEGION BASEBALL

American Legion World Series coverage expands on ESPNU

Each of the eight American Legion World Series (ALWS) baseball teams will have an opportunity to play in front of a national television audience, as coverage of the event has expanded on ESPNU.

For the first time, the three games played on Saturday, Aug. 12, will be televised on ESPNU. ALWS games scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 10, and Friday, Aug. 11, will be streamed on ESPN3.com. The pool play games on Saturday and Sunday, the two semifinal games on Monday, Aug. 14, and the championship game on Tuesday, Aug. 15, will be televised on ESPNU. This marks the fourth straight year in which event coverage in Shelby, N.C., has expanded on the network since the first televised game in 2014.

The ESPNU additions come on the heels of strong viewership numbers and continued growth in interest regarding American Legion Baseball and its premier event. The 2016 ALWS – the 90th in the program's history – attracted 120,000 to Cleveland County's Keeter Stadium for baseball action, marking the sixth straight year in which an all-time attendance record was set.

"Every year, the city of Shelby outdoes itself to create the best environment in amateur baseball," said Gary Stone, American Legion Baseball Committee chairman. "This is a great opportunity to make sure that all eight teams get a chance to shine."

 www.americanlegionworldseries.com



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THE GREAT WAR 100

HONOR & REMEMBRANCE

'You are making your own sacrifice'

Editor's note: Throughout the Great War's centennial, The American Legion Magazine will publish excerpts from the letters of D.B. "Bernard" Ryan of Albion, N.Y., who served as an Army infantry officer and helped found American Legion Sheret Post 35 in 1919.

MADISON BARRACKS, JUNE 8, 1917

Dear Mother,

We are all dead tired & are trying to cram so much into our brains that I can't see how we will learn anything well. Yesterday I studied all the odd hours before & after mess, before & after formations, morning, noon and night & last night till 9:30. 7 hours sleep seems short for all we do.

I am glad the humorous incidents appealed to you. There are many happening here all the time. The other day in our hike a man's pack (blanket, shelter half, poncho, and tent pin) weighing several pounds dropped out of his carrier. He didn't miss it for half an hour.

Toujours gai, toujours gai.

JUNE 23, 1917

Well, I came back from the range without a lame shoulder or a smashed face. Not that I expected either for I was determined I would hold tight onto the rifle and not let it kick me. It would seem that I did so but my score was not wonderful. At 200 and 300 yards I scored 38 out of a possible 50, which was better than a marksman's shot or as good. The whole thing was jolly good fun and not at all the terror which many men like to make out. The range is Stony Point, 18 miles away and the drive to it is through most beautiful country.

What would you think of my trying for aviation if I do not get a commission here? They have raised the age limit from 25 to 30 years for applicants from these camps now. The physical exams are very severe and only a few have passed them. I know of only one man from our company who has succeeded.

There is a notice up now about the French classes. It will be three hours a week including an hour Sat and Sun. If I find that so many beginners are in it that I am getting no good out of it I can drop out.

JUNE 30, 1917

I am neglecting correspondence, diary, accts, everything these days. My entire manner of life is changing. I even failed to write to you two days this week until too late for you to get them the next day. We are being given so much to do on such diverse subjects that we are getting only a smattering.

I do hope you keep in touch with the daily news through a good newspaper. You are directly taking part in a great world event and you should know what the other fellow is doing and why you are making your own sacrifice.

As ever, war is farthest from thought and conversation here altho the arrival of our troops in France has probably given us something of a jolt. In a way I am beginning to change my opinion about the duration of the war and to think it will end rather quickly. At any rate I think it will be some time before any of us here are in it, if ever. I wonder if you can understand my present carefree attitude. I hope you have a similar one.

Love, Bernard

HONOR & REMEMBRANCE

Deadline nears for 100 Cities/100 Memorials

All entries to the 100 Cities/100 Memorials grant program – which offers matching funds of up to \$2,000 for projects to restore World War I monuments and memorials in local communities nationwide – must be submitted online by noon EDT on June 15. The winning projects will be announced on Veterans Day.

The competition is offered by the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission and the Pritzker Military Museum & Library, and supported by The American Legion via resolution.

 www.ww1cc.org/100-cities-100-memorials-home



HONOR & REMEMBRANCE

Tell your family's Great War story

Nearly 5 million American families sent fathers, sons, mothers or daughters to serve in the armed forces during the Great War. The U.S. World War One Centennial Commission encourages their descendants to tell their stories at its "Stories of Service" page online.

Many living Americans listened to their relatives talk about their war experiences, but this first-person knowledge will vanish when they pass away. The time is now for family members to capture that information. Others know of their forebears' service from letters, diaries or other records. People can add their family histories to the commission's permanent records online.

 www.ww1cc.org/family-ties-orientation.html

A NEW FRONTIER:

The Impossible Wright Brothers & The Discovery of Stem Cells for COPD

Imagine for a moment that someone asked you to make a flying car. You can have all the time you want, and you can use whatever resources you have available. Do you think you could do it? "No, of course not," you say. "That's impossible."

But is it?

The Wright Brothers were from a small town in Dayton, Ohio. On a curiosity and a whim, they decided to throw their hats into the ring in the pursuit of aviation. They weren't particularly experienced, formally educated or born with a silver spoon. Yet, they defied the established order and pioneered a breakthrough that would put them in the book of human history for all time.

In similarity to the impossible Wright Brothers, today we've found our society at the center of a challenge. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) has devastated the lives of over 15 million Americans and risen to the third leading cause of death in the U.S. This is a problem, but courtesy of American clinics like the Lung Institute (LungInstitute.com), a solution may be here.

With a history stretching as far as the 1950s when stem cell transplants were used to successfully treat leukemia, the crowning advancement of stem

cell therapy came with the discovery that stem cells could be extracted from a patient's blood or bone marrow and reintroduced into their body to promote healing from within.

As the field of regenerative medicine continues to see rapid breakthroughs in disease application, the treatment of lung diseases such as COPD, emphysema and pulmonary fibrosis have been turned upside down. For patients facing the unchanging rigidity of traditional medication, where only the relief of symptoms can be promised, stem cell therapy has shown the potential to address symptom relief as well as the potential to address the disease's progression. This dynamic change has created a shift in the way those with lung disease view their life's outlook. The possibility of having more time and better health with their family and loved ones has restored hope.

Innovation is courage and



Like the Wright Brother's first flight, stem cell therapy may just be the world's next big innovation.

self-determination. The Wright Brothers believed the impossible was tangible and able to be accomplished through sheer willpower. Although COPD has no cure, a better life isn't outside the range of possibility with the aid of stem cell therapy.

Sometimes a favorable wind is all the strength you need to push forward and do the impossible. ■

Stem Cells: *The Next Big Thing*

Lung disease accounts for the loss of 150,000 lives every year and is the third leading cause of death in the United States.

Specialists using stem cells from the patient's own body can offer treatment for people suffering from lung diseases including:

- COPD
- Emphysema
- Chronic Bronchitis
- Pulmonary Fibrosis
- Interstitial Lung Disease

With clinics located in Dallas, Texas; Scottsdale, Arizona; Nashville, Tennessee; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Tampa, Florida, the physicians at the Lung Institute are able to treat patients nationwide.

If you or a loved one suffers from a chronic lung disease, contact the Lung Institute to find out if stem cell treatments may be right for you.

**Find out if you are a candidate for treatment.
(888) 246-2941 | LungInstitute.com/AL**

“There is the national flag. He must be cold, indeed, who can look upon its folds rippling in the breeze without love of country.”

– Charles Sumner (1811-1874),
U.S. senator from Massachusetts

FLAG DAY

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a **PROCLAMATION** stating that June 14 shall be National Flag Day. In 1949, it was made official by an **ACT OF CONGRESS**.

Wikimedia Commons

On **JUNE 14, 1877**, the first Flag Day observance was held on the 100th anniversary of the Second Continental Congress' adoption of the Stars and Stripes, and the U.S. flag was flown from all public buildings across the country.

Bernard J. Cigrand, a schoolteacher, is known as the **FATHER OF FLAG DAY**. He lobbied Congress for Flag Day to be officially observed.

Wikimedia Commons



Learn more about the rich history of the U.S. flag with **INDIVISIBLE: THE STORY OF OUR FLAG**, an American Legion Family Centennial bookazine. Beautifully illustrated, it explores Old Glory's meaning, the price paid for all it symbolizes, and the special place the flag occupies in our nation's culture and conscience. Cost is \$9.95.

 emblem.legion.org

THREE OAKS FLAG DAY WEEKEND & PARADE

is a three-day event in Three Oaks, Mich., June 9-11, sponsored by American Legion Post 204. The highlight will be the 65th annual Flag Day Parade at 3 p.m. June 11.

 threeoaksflagday.com

On June 11, Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia kicks off its annual flag festival, which includes a visit from George Washington, interactive programs and a naturalization ceremony. The week culminates with **STARS AND STRIPES SATURDAY**, an outdoor mini-carnival with games, juggling and circus acts.

 historicphiladelphia.org/betsy-ross-house/what-to-see/



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CAREERS

How to write powerful achievement statements



Your No. 1 goal when writing your résumé, job search letters, LinkedIn profile and other career communications is to position yourself as a unique and memorable candidate.

That pertains to all sections of your résumé: summary, job descriptions, achievements, education and more. This column will focus specifically on writing achievement statements and what you can do to transition them from ho-hum to high-impact.

If you're in a position where you can quantify achievements, great. Here are a few brief examples:

- Reduced inventory costs 12 percent by streamlining supply chain and logistics.
- Increased workforce performance ratings 8 percent with new training programs.
- Achieved three straight years of 100 percent compliance with quality metrics.

Many achievements are not quantifiable, and that's OK. In those situations, the best solution is the use of powerful verbs in your achievements. Consider these verbs that are often overused: implemented, managed, led, supervised, oversaw, participated in ... the list goes on.

What if you used verbs that communicated stronger messages of your performance? Read the achievements below and see what a difference a single verb can make.

- **Championed** the implementation of new IT tools that increased worker productivity on a daily basis.
- **Spearheaded** redesign of safety standards to meet stringent new regulations and reduce on-the-job accidents.
- **Collaborated** across MOS disciplines to enhance cooperation and improve division-wide performance ratings.
- **Accelerated** the deployment of 2,000 troops and \$3 million-plus in vehicles and weaponry.

Think about each of the above verbs and the messages those single words communicate: action, leadership and results. A simple word change can make all the difference in what you write, how you write and, most importantly, how the reader interprets it.

To be sure your résumé, letters and LinkedIn profile are as strong as they can be, read them and see how you can edit the language to increase its impact and achieve your ultimate goal – to be unique and memorable. In turn, position yourself as *the* candidate for your targeted positions.

Wendy Enelow is co-author of "Modernize Your Résumé: Get Noticed ... Get Hired" and "Expert Résumés for Military-to-Civilian Transitions."



Photo courtesy Post 174

CENTENNIAL

Post 174, Palmyra, Mo.

On its Centennial Celebration page, Boots-Dickson Post 174 has several photos from the funeral of one of the post's namesakes: Wade Boots, a U.S. Marine private who was wounded Nov. 3, 1918, eight days before the armistice, and died in a hospital shortly afterward.

A Palmyra, Mo., native, Boots was buried in a French military cemetery. On Oct. 24, 1919, Post 174 was chartered and named in his honor. A year later, Boots' remains were disinterred and returned to Missouri. On April 3, 1921, thousands attended his funeral. Members of Post 174 performed military honors and guarded Boots' body as it laid in state at the courthouse.

SHARE YOUR POST'S LEGACY

Upload stories, photos and videos of your post's history on the Legion's Centennial Celebration website.

www.legion.org/centennial

EDUCATION

What's the Koss Scholarship?



Q: *I am a full-time student attending college and receiving Chapter 35 benefits. My father is 100 percent disabled. I recently received a letter notifying me that I was awarded the Koss Scholarship. I did not apply for it and am wondering if I will receive a check.*

A: Vietnam War veteran Ronald W.

Koss bequeathed a generous amount of money to VA to provide educational funds for veterans' children. The Ronald William Koss Endowment Fund, or the Koss Scholarship, is named in recognition of his contribution. VA has gifted this to recipients of Chapter 35 education benefits. To receive the scholarship, you had to be enrolled in college during March and April 2017.

The funds replace VA benefits outlays for that period of time. You will not receive any extra money or payments from VA, or earn any additional entitlement, and your entitlement charge will remain the same. This scholarship will be awarded only once.

Valerie Heffner is a Marine Corps veteran and member of American Legion Post 27 in Arizona. askvalerie@legion.org

PERSONAL FINANCE



Check out new 'Money Drill' podcast

FOCUS ON FINANCES



J.J. MONTANARO

They say you can't teach an old dog new tricks, but my recent experiences with podcasting have me thinking otherwise.

In my role as a financial planner on USAA's Military Advocacy team, I work with affinity partners like The American Legion, participate in USAA's financial content

development, speak at a variety of different events and respond to press inquiries. That's all pretty old-school, but it's also fun. So when our marketing team asked me if I'd like to host a podcast, my response was, "What?" Despite initial hesitation, I've discovered it's pretty cool – not exactly a new trick, but certainly a little different. As host of the program, called "The Money Drill," I'm constantly learning.

Here are three reasons why you might give it a listen:

■ **You have control.** You can listen to what you want when you want. Not interested in learning about how you can use a 529 plan to save for your kids' college? Maybe a discussion on the benefits and drawbacks of annuities is more in your wheelhouse. You decide.

■ **You get to know us – and maybe share a laugh.** We have a great group of purpose-driven folks at USAA, and you get a chance to meet them and hear how they think through our podcasts. Check out the life insurance program – even if you're not interested in life insurance – and you'll see what I mean. Many of our guests bring USAA to life.

■ **You get information in bite-size nuggets.** Since the programs don't last longer than about 15 minutes, you won't have to invest a lot of time to get a lot out of it.

While USAA experts join me on most shows, I've also had opportunities to interview a variety of people from across the world of personal finance. USAA recently sponsored a conference where I did podcast interviews on the spot with some top bloggers in personal finance, many of whom served in the military or were military spouses. This month, we've set up a link to "The Money Drill" straight from **www.legion.org**, so take a minute to check it out.

J.J. Montanaro is a certified financial planner with USAA, The American Legion's preferred provider of financial services. Submit questions for him online.

www.legion.org/usaa/focusonfinances

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How to submit a reunion

The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280, e-mail reunions@legion.org or submit information via our website, www.legion.org/reunions.

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are publicized free of charge.

Your notice will appear on our Web site within a week and will remain available online until the final day of your reunion. Upon submission, please allow three months for your reunion to be published in print. **Due to the large number of reunions, The American Legion Magazine will publish a group's listing only once a year.**

Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

Other notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. **We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim.** Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

The magazine will not publish names of individuals, only the name of the unit. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life

memberships by their posts. **This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership.** Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.**

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.** Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

AIR FORCE / ARMY AIR FORCES

6th Bomb Wing, Roswell, NM, 9/15-16, Bobby Pike, (479) 452-7191, wa56af53@gmail.com; **57th Trp Carrier Sqdn, 57th Mil Airlift Sqdn, 57th Airlift Sqdn & 57th Wpns Sqdn**, Midwest City, OK, 10/18-22, Woodie Hall, (239) 850-1758, president@57thlumi.com; **93rd Bomb Grp (H) (VH)(M) (1942-1952) & Castle AFB, CA, 389th Bomb Grp, 44th Bomb Grp, 2nd Air Div, 15th AF B-24 Grps**, New Orleans, 9/27-10/2, John Marx, (724) 843-3897, 109clearview@verizon.net; **320th TAC MMS (RAF Wethersfield, England)**, Denver, 6/2-4, Robert Strand, (952) 236-7547, robertstrand14@comcast.net; **366th Ftr Assn**, Fairborn, OH, 9/20-23, Paul Jacob, (614) 906-4470, 366gunfighterreunion@gmail.com; **366th Sec Police Sqdn K-9 (Da Nang AB, Vietnam)**, Seattle, 10/4-8, Steven G Luz, (209) 581-1922, luz7963@yahoo.com; **AF Postal & Courier Assn**, Harrisburg, PA, 9/5-8, Jim Faulkner, (361) 746-8460, jim1c21@aol.com; **GEEIA-MDA-EI Assn**, Tulsa, OK, 8/3-6, Darrell Getchell, (405) 732-8789, d_getchell@cox.net; **Pleiku AB (1962-1973)**, Jacksonville, FL, 9/6-10, Harry Beam, (724) 745-9129, hbeam065@yahoo.com; **RAF Bovingdon Base (1949-1962)**, Fredericksburg, VA, 10/12-15, Dave Zerby, (540) 374-1982, 2zerbys@gmail.com; **Tuy-Hoa AB - 31st TFW, All Units & Yrs (Vietnam)**, Fort Walton Beach, FL, 10/12-15, Paul Goodrich, (812) 597-4553; **Washington Air Def Sector (WaADS) - 4638th Support Sqdn (Fort Lee, VA, 1960-1966)**, Maggie Valley, NC, 9/15-17, Paul Lainhart, (850) 814-2073, imanole927@att.net

ARMY

2nd Inf Div, Arlington, VA, 9/13-17, Bob Haynes, (224) 225-1202, 2idahq@comcast.net; **4th Bn 9th Inf Rgt Manchus**, San Antonio, 9/13-16, Bob Lannon, (317) 745-4287, bob199@hotmail.com; **5th Bn 42nd Arty (Vietnam)**, San Diego, 9/14-17, Manny Ramirez, (909) 913-2028, manny14117071@yahoo.com; **7th Bn, 13th Arty All Btrys (Vietnam, 1966-1970)**, Savannah, GA, 9/24-28, Kevin Calkins, (630) 542-1095, kcalk1095@gmail.com; **8th Armd Div Assn**, Bensalem, PA, 6/2-4, Andy Waskie, (215) 423-3930, 8tharmddivision@gmail.com; **11th Abn Div, 187th (All Eras), 11th Air Assault**, Colorado Springs, CO, 9/18-22, Joe Doshier, (479) 631-1295; **23rd Inf Rgt USARAL**, Kansas City, KS, 9/11-14, Donald Bayt, (727) 289-6668, conniebayt@msn.com; **24th Inf Div Assn**, Savannah, GA, 9/11-15, George Vlasic, (910) 287-5618, geonanyvlasic@atmc.net; **27th Inf Rgt "Wolfhounds"**, Seattle, 8/20-27, Mac Fletcher, (425) 281-1929, makotofletcher@comcast.net; **65th Cbt Eng Bn, 25th Inf Div**, Woodbridge, VA, 10/9-13, Ken Dixon, (706) 260-5661, ken_dixon49@yahoo.com; **74th Co, Inf OCS (Fort Benning, GA, Aug 1967)**, Bethlehem, PA, 8/11, John McGeehan, (610) 442-6629, johnm@barkerpaving.com; **77th FA (All Eras)**,

Colorado Springs, CO, 9/21-24, Tom Chiappone, (917) 604-2649, tomc@cms-fm.com; **86th/501st Co Vietnam Landclearers**, New Florence, MO, 7/7-9, Paul Spittowski, (912) 842-2240, pspitski@bulloch.net; **101st Abn Div Vietnam Vets**, Colorado Springs, CO, 8/2-6, Ed Barbour, (804) 745-4065, edbarbour1@gmail.com; **114th Inf Rgt 44th Div (WWII)**, Atlanta, 9/20-23, John Walsh, (678) 314-9895, brothertodo@yahoo.com; **167th Sig Co (RR VHF)**, Ogden, UT, 9/18-22, Chuck Widener, (309) 547-2579, catwide@sbcglobal.net; **359th Trans Co (Vietnam)**, San Antonio, 5/9-13, John Porter, (432) 267-1733, crowbar.1@comcast.net; **509th Eng Co Panel Bridge (1965-1971)**, Portsmouth, NH, 9/7-10, Martin Short, (978) 815-3213, martingshort@yahoo.com; **575th Trans Co (Vicenza, Italy)**, Branson, MO, 10/21-23, Fred Dintino, (215) 643-7970, info@575thtransco.org; **630th Eng (LE) Co (Vietnam)**, Branson, MO, 9/14-16, Cecil Brown, (731) 415-6460, cecilnbrown@charter.net; **864th Eng Bn**, Seattle, 10/18-22, Ralph Willing, (860) 977-8937, willingrvw@gmail.com; **919th Eng Co (SCARWAF) "Red Devils"**, Springfield, IL, 7/12-15, Kenneth Wood, (336) 668-4531, woodkp@hotmail.com; **Arizona Army Sec Agency**, Mesa, AZ, 8/18-20, Jerry Darr, (480) 507-6825, ardf308@gmail.com; **B Co 504th MP Bn (Vietnam)**, Norfolk, VA, 9/27-10/1, Harry Yates, (505) 865-7359; **C Co 198th LIB (Vietnam, 1969-1970)**, Philadelphia, 9/22-24, Paul Cullinane, (717) 263-2838, pecullinane@embarqmail.com; **Korean War & Korean Defense Troops - 8th Cav Rgt 10th Inf Div**, Basic Tng Cos HHC 1st n 85th Inf & Item Co 87th Inf Rgt (Fort Riley, KS, Dec 1953-Jan 1954), George Co 86th Inf Rgt (Feb-Apr 1954), 8th Cav Rgt (Camp Crawford, Hokkaido & Camp Whittington, Honshu, Japan, May 1954-Nov 1956), Shawnee Mission, KS, 9/8-10, Steve Bosma, (408) 270-1319; **OV-1 Mohawk**, Colorado Springs, CO, 9/14-16, Paul Jacobsen, (763) 493-2428, pej@reagan.com

COAST GUARD

Coast Guard Investigative Assn, Branson, MO, 10/19-22, Sarah Hord, (800) 848-5432, sarah@ozarkskirkwood.com

JOINT

6937th Comm Grp 2008th Comm Sqdn, SOU 23 (Pakistan, 1959-1969), Omaha, NE, 8/24-27, Tom Davis, (937) 470-3395, davis5871@att.net; **Guantanamo Bay**, Gatlinburg, TN, 10/22-27, Wes Loukota, (865) 414-1265, weloukota@gitmobay.org; **Mobile Riverine Force Assn & Army 9th Inf Div**, Indianapolis, 8/31-9/3, Charlie Ardinger, (563) 783-5924, mrfamembership@mabelltel.coop

MARINES

1st Bn 1st Mar (Vietnam), Minneapolis, 8/23-27, Sam Verdeja, (952) 303-1534, samuelverdeja@yahoo.com; **2nd Bn 9th Mar**, Arlington, VA, 11/8-

12, Danny Schuster, (978) 667-4762, ditson35@verizon.net; **3/9 & Fox 2/12 Mar & Support Units (All Eras)**, San Antonio, 9/5-8, Robert Stewart, (727) 581-5454, threeninemarines@aol.com; **3rd 155s, Mike 4/12, 3rd Mar Div**, Detroit, 9/11-14, Alex Jablonowski, (248) 505-2183, 3rd155s.m4.12@gmail.com; **3rd 155mm Gun Btry (SP)**, Branson, MO, 10/5-7, Ed Kirby, (978) 987-1920, ed-kirby@comcast.net; **7th Eng Bn Vietnam Vets**, Orlando, FL, 9/21-24, Jim Taranto, (518) 567-4267, tarantoj@gmail.com; **Forgotten Heroes, Eastern Recruiting Region Recruiters**, Parris Island, SC, 8/17-19, Larry Risvold, (803) 760-4575, larryrisvold@att.net; **Mar AB Sqdns 43 & 49**, Earlvile, MD, 9/9, Chuck McGarigle, (609) 291-9617, mabsreunion@comcast.net; **Montford Point Marines**, Las Vegas, 7/19-23, Ron Johnson, (504) 202-8552; **USMC Food Service**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 10/17-21, Mike Fishbaugh, (606) 789-5010, smfishbaugh@mikrotek.com

NAVY

Abraham Lincoln SSBN 602, Branson, MO, 10/26-29, Thomas Ponko, (918) 787-2250, ponko_a2zinc@msn.com; **ASR/ARS**, Baton Rouge, LA, 10/16-21, Mary Neal, (502) 477-0876, mbneal@twc.com; **Belknap**, Norfolk, VA, 10/18-22, Mike Umbriaco, (541) 895-2168, muudu@centurytel.net; **Bristol DD 857**, Williamsburg, VA, 9/11-15, Paul Ratcliffe, (973) 309-4040; **Caliente AO 53**, Portland, OR, 9/7-10, James "Tom" Rawlinson, (317) 709-1111, rawlin50@sbcglobal.net; **Chester CA 27**, Plantation, GA, 9/27-30, Janet Watson, (281) 467-0093, lucy19@sbcglobal.net; **Cogswell DD 651**, Colorado Springs, CO, 10/10-13, George Overman, (760) 889-2216, Secretary@usscogswell.com; **Constellation CV 64 Flying Sqdn (1984-1988)**, New Orleans, 2/23-27, Mark Haywood, (724) 366-1769, mahaywood@atlanticbb.net; **Dixie AD 14**, San Diego, 10/3-7, Ken Robinson, (520) 825-5613, ussdixiereunion@yahoo.com; **Everett F. Larson DD/DDR 830**, Branson, MO, 10/11-15, Ellis Warmkessel, (352) 232-7655, erwarmkessel@aol.com; **Floyd B. Parks DD 884**, San Diego, 9/14-18, Jim Smith, (218) 224-3581, jwsmith@paulbunyan.net; **Fox DLG / CG 33**, San Antonio, 10/5-7, Michael Hare, (419) 310-2958, wyandotvetser@sbcglobal.net; **Frank E. Evans DD 754**, Branson, MO, 9/27-10/1, John Coffey, (706) 335-0724, johnjudyc@gmail.com; **Halsey Powell DD 686**, Branson, MO, 9/20-24, Richard Kinslow, (541) 689-3877, rgbeav@aol.com; **James E. Kyes DD 787**, San Diego, 10/18-22, Rick Warden, (417) 358-2505, rickwarden@suddenlink.net; **John King DDG 3**, Fall River, MA, 9/11-15, Mathew Cummings, (917) 685-6804, mrgilholey@msn.com; **Los Angeles CA 135**, Harrisburg, PA, 9/19-22, Eddie Martello, (816) 808-0351, bnsmartello@aol.com; **Mars AFS 1**, Jacksonville, FL, 11/2-5, Ed Biddle, (713) 899-5035, edbid@yahoo.com; **MCB/NMCB 7**, Fishkill, NY, 9/14-17, Denny Blaisdell, (419) 867-9371,

mcb7ra@yahoo.com; **Monticello LSD 35**, San Antonio, 9/6-10, Robert Behm, (209) 772-0543, beamer@ussmonticello.com; **Montrose APA 212**, Charleston, SC, 10/12-16, Bill Forbes, (760) 994-7981, skyforb@comcast.net; **Mountrail APA 213**, Branson, MO, 9/21-24, Don DiCoio, (973) 725-1974, dicoio44@aol.com; **Nantahala AO 60**, Jacksonville, FL, 10/1-5, William Edwards, (724) 887-9849, wae234@verizon.net; **Oak Hill LSD 7**, Rapid City, SD, 9/28-10/1, Raylah Holm, (509) 607-9021, raylah@aol.com; **Opticalman-Instrumentman Assn**, Hannibal, MO, 9/13-17, John Bryan, (706) 339-5905, bigjohn767@yahoo.com; **Orion AS 18**, Waterloo, IA, 9/17-21, Larry Snyder, (319) 939-3668, rowleyrunner@gmail.com; **Patrol Sqdn 8 - All Navy Flyers, Flt or Ground Crews for P2Vs, P3s & P8s**, Virginia Beach, VA, 10/15-19, Richard Scotti, (636) 949-0570, navy9crew@sbcglobal.net; **Perkins DD 26/377/877**, Grapevine, TX, 8/17-19, Billy and Sue Orr, (903) 583-7641, sueorr60@yahoo.com; **Piedmont AD 17**, San Diego, 10/3-7, Kent Thomas, (913) 381-8334, kthomas82@kc.rr.com; **Point Defiance LSD 31**, Washington, 9/19-23, Debs Day, (205) 915-2552, debsday@bellsouth.net; **Radford DD/DE 446**, Charleston, WV, 9/20-24, Chad Parsons, (304) 927-0094, ussradford@gmail.com; **Rainier AE 5**, Las Vegas, 10/9-13, Frank Gonzales, (559) 325-9114, frgonz@comcast.net; **Robinson DD 562**, Philadelphia, 9/14-17, Art Bowne, (281) 474-0558, ajbowne@yahoo.com; **Sea Cat SS 399**, Fort Worth, TX, 10/2-5, Edwin Hymmer, (515) 981-3006, ednmeg@mcchsi.com; **South Dakota BB 57**, Sioux Falls, SD, 7/6-9, Karen Dunham, (605) 366-3291, karendunham@dunhamresidential.com; **Sperry AS 12**, San Diego, 10/25-28, David Jackson, (360) 435-6919, djpanda34@cs.com; **Taussig DD 746**, San Antonio, 9/20-24, Donald Johnson, (859) 745-2973, hihatky@gmail.com; **Thomaston LSD 28**, Harrisburg/Hershey, PA, 9/21-23, Johnny Witt, (575) 686-8333, witt.j@att.net; **Tortuga LSD 26 / 46**, New Orleans, 9/11-15,

Greg Kahn, (804) 522-5000, patkahn@aol.com; **Towers DDG 9**, San Antonio, 9/19-24, Raymond Wong, (415) 601-6285, usstowersddg9@pacbell.net; **Tunny SS/SSG/APSS 282 & SSN 682**, San Diego, 10/25-29, Warren Branges, (619) 971-8292, tunny.reunion.2017@gmail.com; **Tutuila ARG 4**, Providence, RI, 9/27-30, Charles Estelle, (201) 262-0753, boxcar_charlie@horizon.net; **Valley Forge (Happy Valley Reunion Club)**, Colorado Springs, CO, 10/4-7, Earl Gipe, (303) 795-8224, hoygipek@comcast.net; **VAP 61/62**, Kansas City, MO, 10/25-29, Donna Sims, (660) 259-4546, donna.sims.1969@gmail.com; **Virgo AKA 20 / AE 30**, Chattanooga, TN, 9/13-17, Steve Wamsley, (740) 493-2494, selres@frontier.com; **Vreeland DE/FF 1068**, Branson, MO, 4/26-29, Mark Smith, (817) 454-5051, mlsmith100000@aol.com

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IN SEARCH OF

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64th Trans Co 124th Bn (Pleiku, Vietnam, 1967-1968), Jimmy Tidwell, (931) 853-4071, jvickitidwell@aol.com
86th Trans Co (Long Binh, Vietnam, 1970-1971), Ricky Tubbs, (859) 707-6579
93rd BG (H)(VH)(M) (Castle AFB, CA, 1946-1952), Jim Guddal, (866) 694-9058, jguddal@yahoo.com
301st ARW Jet Engine (Lockbourne AFB, 1966-1970), Ronnie Lautzenheiser, (419) 749-2276

407th-870th Transport Co 362nd Transport Bn (Fort Eustis, VA, 1951-1953), Samuel Gooch, (615) 876-0122
693rd Eng Co (Depot) (Kaiserslautern, Germany, 1951-1952), Steve Irby, (770) 714-6092, gahokie78@gmail.com
B Co 703rd "Marne" Div (Larson Bks, Kitzingen, Germany, 1972-1973), Robert Gehm, (727) 534-1829
Boston CAG 1 (Sept 1965-Sept 1968), D.L. Marshall, (816) 206-6132
I Corp 7th Div 31st Inf Rgt Mike Co (Korea, July 1953-Nov 1954), John "Jack" Barnes, (512) 261-4927, jcbarnes01@aol.com
Inchon LPH 12 HMM-162 AIMD (1990-1991), Matt Forgey, 175408 PCF, 727 Moon Road, Plainfield, IN 46168
MALS-29, MAG-29, 440 Shop (1989-1993), Matt Forgey, 175408 PCF, 727 Moon Road, Plainfield, IN 46168
NSA Da Nang Seabees Hosp Maint (1968), Robert Jenne, (518) 326-0061
Panama Canal Zone (1960-1970), Steve Bohn, (516) 232-4325, captainvideo5757@gmail.com
Pit 1069 (MCRD San Diego, Sept 1980), Roy Hale, (805) 354-8216, rescuetac@hotmail.com
TUSLOG Det 8 (Diyarbakir AB, Turkey, 1962-1963), Paul Todd, (941) 966-3702, ptodd191@aol.com
VA-212 Line Crew (Moffett Field, CA, 1956-1958), Joe Lee, (678) 458-0463
Wasp LHD 1 HMN-162 AIMD (1991), Matt Forgey, 175408 PCF, 727 Moon Road, Plainfield, IN 46168

TAPS

James F. Welsh, Dept. of Ohio. Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Memb. 2013-2017, Nat'l Counter-Subversive Activ. Cmte. Memb. 2008-2013 and Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2000-2008.

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Everyone should take a summer vacation. Mosquitoes have to eat, too.

AS A NEW STEAMSHIP sailed into the harbor, a grimy coal barge floated immediately in front of it.

"Move that old scow!" shouted an officer from the bridge. An elderly face suddenly appeared from the barge's hatchway.

"Are you the captain?" the old man asked.

"No," the officer replied.

"Then speak to your own equal. I'm the captain of this vessel!"

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WE HAVE a strange custom in our office. The food has names there. Yesterday, for example, I grabbed a sandwich out of the fridge and its name was "Michael."

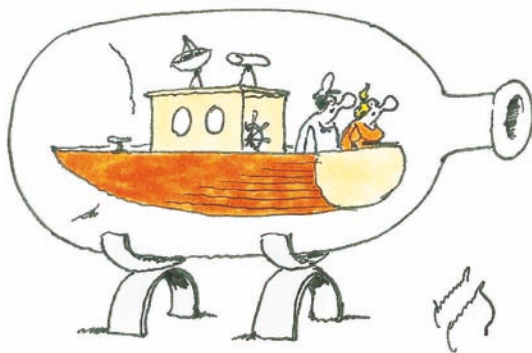
I TOLD my girlfriend she drew her eyebrows too high. She seemed surprised.

WHY DID the chicken cross the playground? To get to the other slide.

A CHURCH in a rural area was badly in need of repairs, and parishioners met to discuss what could be done to raise the necessary funds. One of the wealthiest – and stingiest – of the members rose and said he would give \$500, then sat down.

Suddenly a large chunk of plastering fell from the ceiling and hit him on the head. He jumped up, looking confused, and said, "Did I say \$500? I meant \$5,000!" Then he sat down again.

After a moment a voice said from the back, "Hit him again, Lord!"



"Something tells me the Coast Guard isn't coming."



"Putting these in was the only way I could get him to mow the lawn."



"And this little piggy went to market, presumably kicking and screaming the whole way."

A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER asked a little boy, "Do you know what happens to boys who use bad language when they play marbles?"

"Oh yes," the boy replied. "They grow up and play golf."

A WORKER asked his boss if he could raise his salary. "Relax," the boss replied. "I've been able to raise it every other payday, haven't I?"

"DEFENSE SECRETARY James 'Mad Dog' Mattis said climate change is real and threatening global stability. He then asked that his nickname be changed to 'Reasonable Dog.'" – Conan O'Brien

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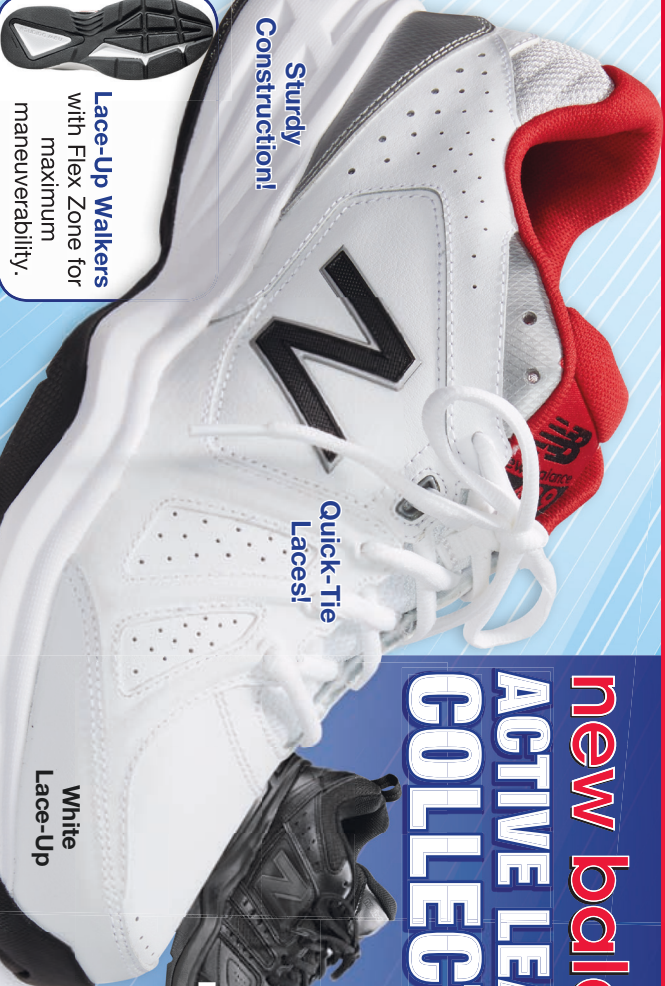
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